Waterproofing Exterior and Interior Building Walls

What is Waterproofing Exterior Building Walls?

If floodwater is against an exterior building wall for several hours, water can seep through a porous wall and flood the building interior.

Application of membranes or spray sealants on exterior or interior building walls can prevent or minimize the amount of water seeping into the building through the walls.

Exterior sealant acts as a barrier between the floodwater and the external wall and interior sealant prevents the floodwater from seeping into the building interior after it has passed through the wall. It is recommended to use the exterior sealant out of the two, as it prevents the floodwater from seeping into the wall material.

Where can this be applied?

This technique is appropriate for buildings subjected to relatively small depths of flooding for prolonged periods.

What else should you know about Waterproofing Exterior Building Walls?

This technique is only effective if all openings into the building (doors, windows) are above the predicted high water level and/or protected by other techniques

The exterior walls must be structurally sound and be able to withstand the force of high water level.

Cost Range

$50 to $75 per square foot ($550 to $800 per square metre).

What type of protection do they provide?

Waterproofing Exterior and Interior Building Walls provide Passive Dry Protection.

Application of a waterproof membrane on the exterior side of a wall *(source: fema.gov)*