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WET ROT

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# WHAT IS WET ROT?

- Wet rot is caused by a fungus, *conophora puteana*
- Cellulose, hemicellulose and lignin are degraded
- Causes wood to decay and lose it's strength (become spongy)
- It can only survive in very wet wood (30%+ moisture content)
- Often caused in areas of localised wetting such as is caused by plumbing faults and leaks
- Most common form of wet rot is named "cellar fungus"

# WHERE IS IT MOST COMMON?

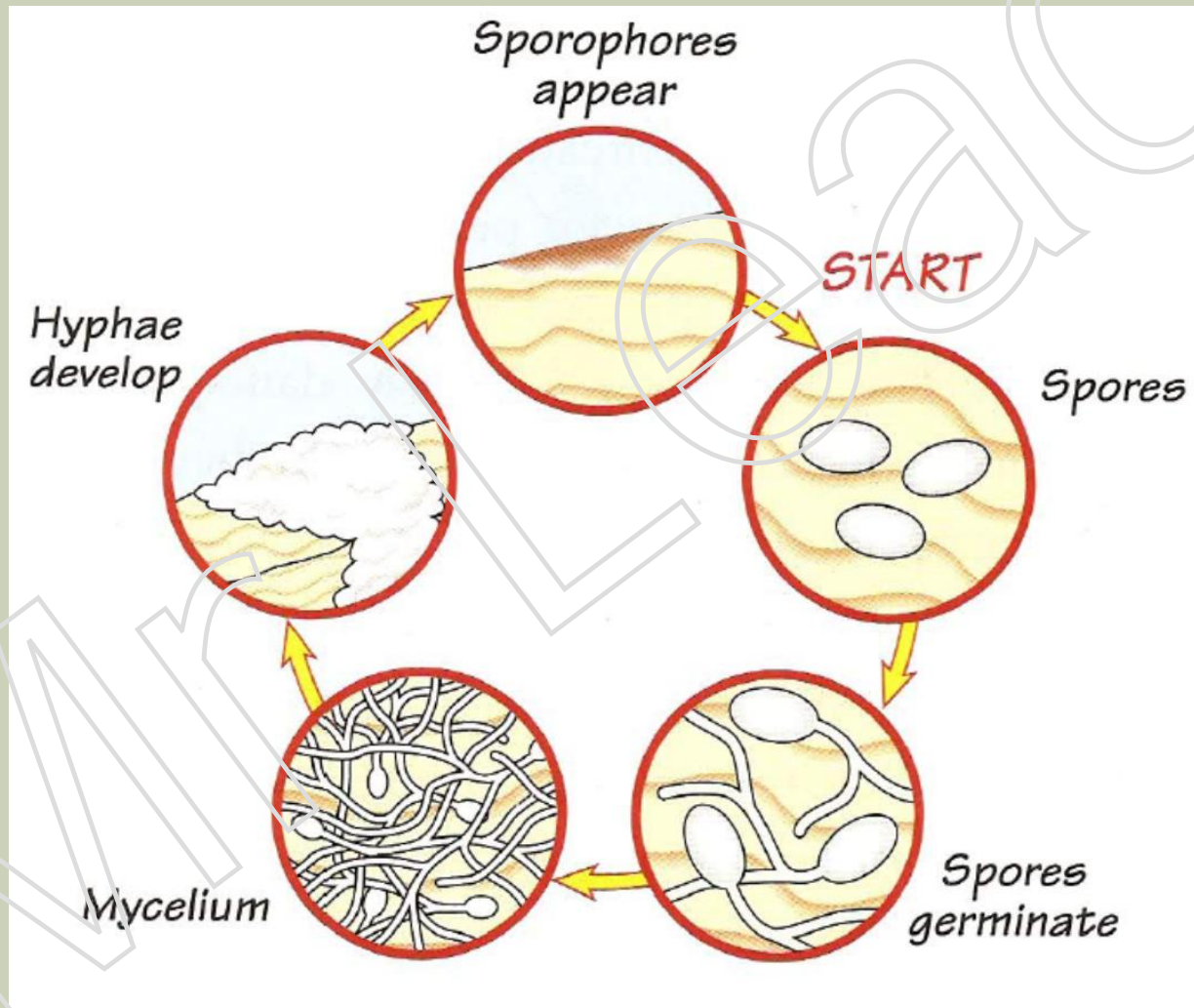
- Damp cellars or other rooms below ground level
- Beneath leaking water pipes
- Behind and under sinks and baths
- Areas of heavy condensation e.g. windows
- Timber in permanent contact with the ground

# HOW WET ROT DEVELOPS

- Develops in the same way as dry rot:
  1. Spores land on the wood
  2. Send out rootlets
    - Does not dry out wood however as the wood is constantly in contact with water
- The fungus forms a white mat on the surface of the wood



# WET ROT LIFECYCLE



# TREATMENT

- Eliminate dampness source
- Dry out area
- Remove affected timbers
- Dispose of timbers
- Treat area with preservatives
- Treat replacement timbers (must have moisture content below 20%)