

**wet rot** *n.* decay in timber caused by excessive moisture.

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1864 DICKENS *Our Mutual Friend* (1865) I. i. viii. 73 Sparrows were there, cats were there, dry-rot and wet-rot were there.

1876 W. H. PREECE & J. SIVEWRIGHT *Telegraphy* 161 Wet-rot is the destructive agent at work more or less on all telegraph poles.

[\(Hide quotations\)](#)

† **wet-salter** *n.* *Obs.* (in contrast to [DRYSALTER](#) *n.*).

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1725 D. DEFOE *Compl. Eng. Tradesman* I. viii. 98 The orange-merchants and wet-salters about Billingsgate.

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**wet shave** *n.* a shave ([SHAVE](#) *n.*<sup>2</sup>) carried out with the aid of a razor, soap, and water as opp. to a (usu. electric) razor alone.

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1976 *NBR Marketplace* (Wellington, N.Z.) III. 2/1 Something over 50 per cent of the estimated 900,000 regular shavers in New Zealand prefer a wet shave start to the day.

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**wet shaver** *n.* someone who shaves by this method.

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1976 *NBR Marketplace* (Wellington, N.Z.) III. 2/3 About 94 per cent of wet shavers use the safety razor with double-edge blades or the modern single-edge blade systems.

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**wet shaving** *n.*

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1964 *Financial Times* 25 Feb. 11/8 The chief obstacle at present is the wet-shaving industry's promotion of the new stainless steel blades.

1980 'D. KAVANAGH' *Duffy* iii. 44 They only took the television set and his electric razor... He went back to wet shaving.

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**wet smack** *n.* *slang* (chiefly *U.S.*) a spoil-sport.

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1927 *Amer. Speech* 3 221 *Wet smack*...something unsatisfactory; applies particularly to an individual who spoils a party; a kill-joy.

1929 P. G. WODEHOUSE *Mr. Mulliner Speaking* i. 33 The man is beyond question a flat tyre and a wet smack.

1977 *Maledicta* Summer 17 If she is actually frigid, she's a wet smack.

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**wet-spin** *v.* (*trans.*) .

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1963 A. J. HALL *Student's Handbk. Textile Sci.* ii. 75 Some of these polymers are soluble in organic solvents..and thus allow the preparation of solutions which can be *dry spun*..or *wet spun*—that is, extruded into a coagulating bath.

1973 *Materials & Technol.* VI. iv. 328 Polyacrylonitrile solutions have been wet-spun..into a coagulating bath.

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