

CRA UPDATES CONCRETE REPAIR ADVICE NOTE

The UK Concrete Repair Association (CRA) has recently published the second (updated) edition of its Advice Note No. 1, entitled 'The route to a successful concrete repair'.

The document has been designed for the benefit of specifiers, contractors and owners of structures and/or buildings containing concrete components. It contains the basic information needed to establish a route to achieving a good level of concrete repair.



CRA Advice Note No. 1 does not attempt to delve into the intricacies of specification, or site works. Rather, by following the steps outlined and by reference to the more detailed publications and advisors highlighted in the publication, the reader should avoid many of the pitfalls endemic in concrete repair projects of all sizes.

The document has been updated in the light of the recently introduced Standard for concrete repair - BS EN 1504 '*Products and systems for the protection and repair of concrete structures- Definitions, requirements, quality control and evaluation of conformity*', the standard framework around which clients and their consultants, or designers, can build a specification.

It deals with the essential steps that need to be followed or considered, before, during and after, carrying out concrete repair, in line with the new BS EN 1504 Standard. They are Health, Safety & Environment, Definition of the client's objectives, Assessment of damage or deterioration and diagnosis of its cause, Specification of the repair work, Preparation of contract documents including a full specification and bill of quantities, Contractor selection and evaluation, Supervision of the work and Post-repair management of the structure.

BS EN 1504 covers all the above mentioned steps and should be followed closely, says the Advice Note. The Standard is in ten parts and although principally product related, it addresses all stages of the repair process from becoming aware of an existing problem, through properly designed and executed repairs, to the handover of a structure to the client.

CRA Advice Note No.1, in conjunction with BS EN 1504, provides a framework for designing, specifying and applying the chosen repair principle or principles and if followed, should provide a successful concrete repair. However, there are many variables such as the right material may not have been chosen in the first instance, or the material, or procedure, may not have been applied properly. Similarly, the Standard does not offer guidance or restrictions on the techniques and methods covered by the principles, particularly as applied on site, nor on the site quality control of the processes. It is best to seek advice and guidance on how to carry out the works on site from a specialist contractor or material manufacturer, such as members of the CRA.

Copies of CRA Advice Note No.1 can be downloaded at: www.cra.org.uk Alternatively, a hard copy can be requested. Tel: 01420 471612 or e-mail: info@cra.org.uk

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