

Specialist materials for civil engineering, infrastructure and construction

TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET

What causes holes in my mineral render finish?

Holes forming in a finished 'Monocouche' / one coat render looks unsightly, often only coming to light several months or sometimes years later. But why does this happen?

The problem generally occurs when the applicator has sprayed the material onto the wall but can occur in walls that have been hand applied but this is far less likely.

For spray applications, the applicator needs to have the correct adjustment of the air nozzle on their particular spray render machine – this information is provided by the machine manufacturer and is 'tweaked' by the applicator to suit different renders. If this is not carried out correctly, when the render is sprayed, some air bubbles get trapped inside the render, creating a thin non bonded layer of render above the bubble – the applicator, during the initial spray, would be aware this can occur and adjust the machine accordingly.

If this is not picked up, it should normally then get dealt with when the applicator rules off the wet material using a serrated derby or spatula as this will often break the 'bubble', ensuring there are no voids within the render, however if a standard derby is used or a flat spatula, then this may just exacerbate the problem – sometimes causing small slumping effects in the render during the levelling off process. This slumping effect is a tell-tale sign which applicators should be aware of. Pump supplier are fully aware of this particular situation and on their training courses they generally (should) make the applicators aware of this.

When the slump effect is seen, all the applicator at this stage needs to do is break the bubbles which would resolve the problem but if they do not (often the (inexperienced) applicator thinks the render is too wet) has a tendency to leave render for a short while to stiffen and then go back and re-work, flattening the render surface but still trapping the air bubbles. The applicator then completes the work which looks nicely finished, the render dries and all looks fine.

Because the render gets wet particularly so during the winter months and with the effect of freezing temperatures, the thin bubble surface eventually breaks and the render falls away which then leaves the holes in the finish. It's generally more apparent on the prevailing walls as these receive the harshest weathering.

To deal with the problem is quite difficult because patching the render is possible but very unsightly and also painting over after repairs does not hide the patches, just evens the colour of the finish which customers do not want to accept.

The only suitable solutions, is to either hack off and re-render but as this is generally very disruptive the other solution is to patch repair the holes and apply a 2 – 3mm layer of mesh reinforced Maite base coat then apply an acrylic finish comprising of DPR Primer and DPR Sand Fine finish.

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This information is provided as guidance only and it is the individual's responsibility to ensure that they and the client are satisfied with any colour matching. Parex are unable to offer any colour matching guarantees.

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