The Quality Pathway - Defect Avoidance

Internal Render



To facilitate this ambition of getting the quality right, these checks should take place:

- > Ensure that the design of background minimises or controls cracking. Beware allowing blockwork to get wet before or during construction as this significantly increases risk
- > Structural background should be at lease six weeks old before rendering
- In situ concrete backgrounds will require scabbling spatterdash or similar to achieve necessary bond
- > Render mix should be cement / sand / plasticiser or masonry cement / sand. Do not use lime-based mixes
- > Render mixes to be in the range 1:3 to 1:4 by volume, generally stronger on concrete, weaker on block and brick backgrounds
- > Ensure all site-mixed render is gauged bucket or box
- > Ensure any movement joints in background are reflected through render and finish
- Maximum thickness should be 13mm on weaker backgrounds, 20mm elsewhere
- If two-coat work is used, first coat must be combed to form a key
- > The second coat should either be weaker or of the same mix but thinner
- > Render should be finished with a wood float, accuracy of 3mm in 2m
- Ensure protection from rapid drying in the first few days
- > Check render for cracking and debonding before any tiling. If any found, seek advice before proceeding
- ➤ If render is properly bonded to background it can generally be applied in bay lengths to suit that background (brick 12m, block 6m) but this may be limited by the amount carried out in one day
- > For accurate work, it is generally essential to use grounds.

