

TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET

Assessing the suitability of applications to well-bonded unpainted render

Sika through coloured renders and render systems are designed to be applied to masonry, render and other suitable substrates, and if applied in the correct manner, will provide fully breathable, low maintenance finishes.

The application of a new render over an existing unpainted render is considered acceptable, if the existing render substrate is well-bonded and there are no surface defects, delamination or cracks. To determine what is a sound render is a relatively straight forward and easy process. Renders that have failed will show cracks on the surface which is an indicator the render has delaminated or the building structure has suffered some differential movement. These cracks can be visible all over the surface or in isolated locations.

A simple hammer test to the affected areas will indicate a hollow sound, signifying the render may have delaminated (sometimes referred to as bossed). These areas should be removed to sound render and correctly reinstated.

If a render looks old with no visual defects it indicates that it is a sound render, but again an easy way to check is to conduct a hammer test over the render. If the render is sound, it is a good idea to conduct a second check by removing a 200mm square section to check if the render easily pulls away from the substrate or brings part of the substrate with it. If it is the latter then the render is clearly well-bonded and no further inspection would be required. However, if the former, then you should either remove the render or incorporate pinning of the mesh in the new render coat.

This information is offered as good practice guidance which should result in trouble-free applications of a new over coated render.

If there are concerns to the condition of the render, please advise Sika prior to commencement of work. All delaminated render must be removed.

Where cracks are evident in the substrate, the application company must be satisfied these have been dealt with in the appropriate manner and ensure that the masonry is stable. Where any render has delaminated, this must be repaired first as detailed in a Sika specification. Sika is unable to provide any guarantees against cracking to these locations. Where cracks are evident or any repairs have been carried out, we would recommend double meshing a minimum of 500mm past the crack / repair locations.

For additional information or other Technical Information Sheets, please visit our website gbr.sika.com.