

Why have a concrete repair association?

The Australian Concrete Repair Association is one of literally thousands of industry associations in Australia. Indeed, there are more than ten industry bodies with the word "concrete" in their name.

So what sets ACRA apart and why is its work so important?

Stop the waste

An estimated \$100–200 million a year is spent in Australia on concrete repair work. Much of this money is spent on either re-doing poor quality work or re-visiting sites where repair work has been poorly conceived.

Many repair jobs fail well within their expected life.

The two main reasons for this are a lack of proper training for concrete repair operatives (contractors and specifiers alike) and the willingness of some clients to employ inexperienced people to do the work.

Anyone can do?

On the face of it, concrete repair appears simple. **So why shouldn't a good painting contractor do concrete repair while re-painting the building?**

Likewise, structural engineers can design bridges and buildings that will withstand extreme loads, so surely, by comparison, specifying a bit of concrete repair work cannot be that hard!

Wrong!

Unfortunately, these views are typical of many who get involved in concrete repair—and it's the clients who suffer the consequences.

ACRA sanctioned

ACRA is tackling these issues head on. How?

For one thing, **companies cannot gain ACRA membership without a demonstrated track record in the field of concrete repair work.**



FAILED FIX IGNORED REAL PROBLEM

Further, an ongoing review ensures that every member maintains an appropriate level of expertise.

In this way, those who rely on the services of ACRA members are assured that they're getting someone who has met carefully considered performance criteria.

Another requirement of ACRA membership is that the member firms maintain a **proven commitment to training**, to ensure that their staff, at every level, are kept abreast of appropriate work practices, diagnostic techniques and repair technologies.

Training can either be in-house or structured external courses and can include some aspects of formal TAFE or university subjects.

New course soon

To ensure that there is no shortage of appropriate training opportunities, ACRA, in a co-operative venture with the Australasian Corrosion Association, has produced a training scheme for concrete repair work.

This is in the final review stage, and the first course will be run in the near future.

So watch this space or visit ACRA's website often.

Safety outcome

The requirement for training also extends to the issue of work safety and the next ACRA column will present cases that will illustrate this point and possibly scare the socks off those who think that any concrete repairer will do!

Don't miss it!