

WHAT RESOURCES ENABLE ENGINEERED MOVEMENT JOINT DESIGN?

One obvious question is how did we arrive at the existing recommendations; what assumptions are they based on; how many idiot factors do they contain; and to what extent are they being compromised by changing building materials and practices?

Guidance providers might write "Where substantial movement is expected the joint should additionally extend through the plaster or render. Movement joints may be needed where different substrate materials abut or where tiles abut a different material" or . How does an architect, builder or tiling contractor determine what constitutes 'substantial' movement, or whether specific circumstances require movement joints? There is no associated formal training or assessment.

The presentation will probably consider the circumstances of a few failures and the abject ways in which self-proclaimed experts have provided interpretations biased to their clients' interests. While tiling contractors would be well advised to follow the guidance provided in Standards, one also has to consider other factors that may have led a tiling system to fail as the satisfactory provision of the advised movement joints does not necessarily prevent failures. One has to consider all the relevant facts before concluding what factors have contributed to any given situation. If the tiling industry could develop a training package to better enable the informed design of movement joints, the tiling industry should have fewer failures and an improved reputation.