

# NHBC Standards 2017

## - RENDER

**New technical guidance highlighting best practice for the application of render was published in NHBC Standards 2017, which came into force on 1st January 2017.**

The new Chapter 6.11 'Render' is a key element of NHBC's on-going campaign to reduce defects in external walls. The rigours of exposure to external conditions can soon start to test the durability of render on a new home and it is anticipated that the technical guidance and advice in the new chapter will help reduce damage.

Explaining the reasons behind the new chapter, NHBC Standards Manager Paul Cribbens said: "In a relatively short space of time poor design detailing can be laid bare, resulting in preventable render damage. Recognising the increased consequences in relation to issues such as cracking in rendered walls, the new Chapter 6.11 sees the introduction of specific guidance to assist the building designer."

Guidance recommends to apply render only in the proper weather conditions to allow render to cure properly. The appropriate precautions steps should be taken in wet, hot or cold weather. Always install render accordingly to manufacturers manuals but generally avoid the base to be persistently wet, spray render with water when the temperature is high to avoid it to set too rapidly, prevent back-ground or applied render to be saturated, protect applied render from heavy rainfall etc. The guidance also mentions about the careful preparation of the background of masonry, clay or metal lath walls and preparation according to manuals to provide appropriate bond. NHBC advised also on the mix proportions for cement-based mixes and coat thicknesses.

Another important matter is the accommodation of movement which is summarised below:

- Movement joints should be continuous through the render and background and made weathertight with an appropriate seal.

- Position joints so that they do not pass through rigid wall components such as lintels or bed joint reinforcement.
- Bed joint reinforcement should be placed in the first two courses of the external leaf above and below any opening. Where possible, reinforcement should extend 600mm beyond the opening.
- Where a board background is attached to a timber framed building via battens, consideration needs to be given at the accommodation of movement at each floor zone. All joints should be detailed in accordance with the system manufacturer's recommendations to be weathertight and allow for movement.
- Ensure that the accommodation of movement to rendered parts of the home is considered at design stage.

Full details of the chapter are freely available online at NHBC's Techzone at [www.nhbc.co.uk](http://www.nhbc.co.uk)

(Source: NHBC)

