

Concrete Cancer (Concrete Degradation)



Concrete Cancer, often identified by flaking concrete or rust stains which originate deep within the concrete is a serious problem caused by rusted reinforcing from within the steel. As steel rusts, it can expand up to 7 times its original size causing the surrounding concrete to be displaced. As the steel pushes the concrete away, more water gets to the steel expediting the process.

The process is generally due to:

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- Poorly treated reinforcing steel being used in the original pour of the slab.
- The ends of reinforcing being too close to the surface allowing water to seep through concrete and react with the steel.
- Incompatible metals being used near each other, thus causing a reaction.
- Fractures in the concrete allowing water to penetrate the concrete and react with the steel.
- Magnesite, for more information please read up by clicking here and reading our information.

Spalled concrete can cause a safety hazard. Concrete degradation and delaminated concrete should be treated immediately as deferring the treatment will inevitably lead to increased problems into the future. Similarly, treating the visual aspects such as rendering over the steel are short term solutions as the rusting process will continue below the surface causing the steel to again displace the concrete and in some cases, rust so badly the steel eventually needs replacement.

TRBS have completed repairs from a single floor through to a 12 unit building.

Disclaimer:

The information above has been sourced from both Australian Standards and The Building Code of Australia along with other publications, the information above may not be complete however is up to date at the time of publishing however TR Building Solutions recommend engaging a professional who deals with pools, at this stage TR Building Solutions do not offer this service but provide the contact details of relevant persons. This is general information only and we recommend you contact TR Building Solutions or your local building professional such as a Structural Engineer prior to relying on any advice above. A free copy of the current Building Code of Australia can be found by clicking this [link](#) and registering.

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