

New research from Corksol shows 2.3 million UK homes have damaged render

Corksol, the sole UK distributor of the innovative SprayCork render coating, has recently unearthed concerning results from a research project carried out by its approved applicator network which suggests around 46% of homes nationally have damaged render.

There are estimated to be around 5 Million homes in the UK, which are fully or partially rendered, but 2.3 Million of these are not performing as they should due to faults.

A popular option for many homes, render systems are an investment, offering a multitude of benefits including reduced living costs, an extra level of protection against the inclement British weather and modern design appeal. But, a poor quality render system can have the reverse effect.

The research, conducted in Spring 2021 covering all regions of the UK from Shetland to Cornwall, discovered a multitude of issues with the render systems including hairline and settlement cracks through to whole system failures, blown render and cosmetic issues such as salt and weather damage, as well as colour staining and unsightly finishes.

Smaller problems were more commonly found, but, if left untreated, these seemingly minor issues can snowball out of control. Over 96% of the homes in the study were found to have hairline cracks in the surface. After repeat exposure to freezing conditions year after year, these cracks will worsen as they constantly expand with the effects of frost.

More pressing concerns came in the form of weather-induced decay, flaking and dusting, which comes as a result of improper application, together with large chunks of render having blown from the substrate, leaving the property unsightly and unprotected.

Joff Ward, director of Corksol UK, comments: "British homes require a render which can withstand the British weather. It can be turbulent and go from one extreme to the other in the matter of days, so a hardy, flexible surface solution is an absolute must. That's why we're so confident in SprayCork. Made from cork bark, stripped directly from trees found on the Mediterranean coastline, it is naturally more robust against the elements including sea air, lashing rain, heat and strong winds. Quarried materials simply cannot provide this degree of protection.

“We always knew there was a damaged render problem in this country, but we didn’t understand the full scale. There’s no doubt there are some very good render jobs around, but there are also some very poor ones. A reliable render should last at least 20 years without any cause for concern or need for repairs, even in the harshest environments in the UK such as the British Isles, Scotland and along the perimeter.

“We’ve made it our mission, through practical and hands on learning, to change the way our homes are rendered. We offer a certified course for renderers across the country to become a Corksol approved applicator, whereby they discover everything there is to know about SprayCork and learn first-hand how to specify and apply the coating for residential and commercial builds. An incredibly valuable course for anyone in the industry, the applicator course will help renderers specify a trustworthy solution which will last years to come.”