



TECHNICAL PRESENTATION
February 8, 2023



Why Isn't My Slab Dry Yet?

Presented by Ms. Karla Salahshour, P.E. and Ms. Anna Quinn, P.E.
with [WJE](#)

BIO: Karla Salahshour specializes in the evaluation and characterization of historic and modern building materials. Her work in WJE's Cleveland materials laboratory focuses on the petrographic examination of concrete, mortar, grout, brick, stucco and plaster, natural and manufactured stone, and other construction materials. Ms. Salahshour's laboratory work has included investigating the causes of distress in construction materials, characterization of cementitious materials, and the evaluation of durability concerns in

hardened concrete. Ms. Salahshour also conducts field evaluations that often grade into laboratory testing, such as evaluating distress in concrete slabs and pavements, evaluating the performance of flooring and coating systems, and investigating distressed reinforced concrete structures. Her field experience also includes the investigation of stone cladding panels, mass masonry structures, terra cotta facades, EIFS and stucco systems, and terrazzo. She is a member of the Association for Preservation Technology International (APT), American Concrete Institute (ACI), the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), and the Society for Concrete Petrographers (SCP). She is a registered professional engineer in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. Karla has given presentations and hands-on seminars on petrography and laboratory evaluations for numerous organizations throughout her career.

BIO: Anna Quinn is a structural engineering associate at Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates (WJE). She has been involved in the assessment, investigation, and repair of concrete, steel, masonry, and wood structures. She also has experience in assessing concrete slabs for moisture-related distress of floor coverings, has evaluated concrete problems concerning cracking and finishing-related defects, and has conducted various failure/damage investigations. Prior to joining WJE, Ms. Quinn worked as a Graduate Research Assistant at Auburn University, where she studied the effects of vehicular braking in highway bridge substructures for typical Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) short-span bridges. She is a member of the American Concrete Institute (ACI) and the Structural Engineers Association of Texas (SEAoT). She is a registered professional engineer in Texas.



ABSTRACT: Concrete slab moisture can cause floor coverings to bubble, blister, and delaminate. Contractors and designers can minimize concrete slab moisture with the use of proper techniques but often contribute to the problem instead. Causes of slab moisture and approaches for moisture mitigation will be discussed during this presentation. Attendees will also be introduced to concrete slab moisture test methods and when their use is appropriate.

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