

Adding a New Service to Your Business? Consider These Ideas First

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CONCRETE CONTRACTOR®

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Moisture Test On The Spot

While traditional laboratory and online-based moisture measurement techniques are useful in the right settings, they have lacked the simplicity and flexibility required for frequent spot checks on construction sites. Industry innovators have developed a simplified approach with testing equipment that allows anyone in the field to get laboratory-quality measurements in any environment. Using a hand-held device such as the HI520-2 concrete and mortar moisture meter by Kett, the worker would select the calibration (i.e., concrete or mortar), press it against the sample, and moisture is immediately displayed with an accuracy of $\pm 0.5\%$ (0-12% for concrete/0-15% for mortar). Automatic

temperature compensation enhances measurement accuracy, and two “raw” modes allow the user to calibrate for deep or shallow samples. One construction contractor used the moisture meter to confirm that the concrete flooring on a 20-story building was ready for custom surface treatment. In fact, this contractor was able to test the entire project in one morning.

Installers can test concrete humidity as water passes through the concrete’s surface even after it hardens. This kind of testing is critical in indoor installations, where high levels of moisture and trapped water in concrete can create mold or lead to bubbling or degradation of its strength and integrity—particularly helpful for concrete subflooring.

If you are building on a slab, you know the importance of a concrete sub-floor that is fully dried and accurately prepared for use. Knowing how the concrete will act when the it is coated, flooring installed, or prepared for final use is key to success.

For those who need more specialized applications of measuring moisture, such as for “wet” concrete, this is also available with other units. With those, the sample moisture of slurry and aggregate can be instantly measured and batch mixes can be optimized. **CC**

Del Williams is a technical writer.

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