



# BASIC CONCRETE KNOWLEDGE IMPORTANT FOR NEW STAFF

---

By Jan De Beer

PRESS RELEASE

*All smaller companies in the construction industry should ensure that new junior and non-technical staff are “introduced to concrete” as part of their initial in-house training to ensure that they deal with customers professionally right from the outset, says John Roxburgh, senior lecturer at Cement & Concrete SA’s School of Concrete Technology.*

“The School of Concrete Technology’s SCT10 Introduction to Concrete course is popular. New or smaller companies should regard it as essential for all new junior staff – in fact, every employee who deals with the public - to attend. Customers who struggle to explain their needs or inquiries to total industry novices, who incredulously sometimes have not learnt the difference between cement and concrete, are likely to give such companies a wide berth in future,” Roxburgh says.

The School will present the two-day Introduction to Course course at its Midrand premises on October 24 and 25 and again on November 28 and 29. It is strongly recommended for small, medium and micro enterprises and junior technical and sales staff in the building, construction and allied industries. “The course is suitable for anyone literate wanting to know more about concrete whether for commercial or personal requirements,” Roxburgh adds.

The topics to be covered in the course, which includes practical laboratory sessions, include:

- Properties and materials for concrete;
- Receiving and storing materials;
- Batching, mixing and testing concrete;
- Transporting, placing and compacting concrete;
- Finishing and surface preparation;
- Protecting new concrete surfaces and curing;
- Formwork and reinforcement;
- Sand-cement mixes; and
- Durability of concrete.



The course is usually presented by School of Concrete Technology lecturer Matthews Magwaza, who is not only vastly experienced in laboratory training but can also speak five African languages to assist learners who do not have English as a language.

Newcomers to the construction industry need training about concrete at the outset – and learn that some of the world's most iconic structures, such as Rome's Colosseum (pictured), are concrete showcases, says John Roxburgh of CCSA's School of Concrete Technology.

For further information, visit [www.cemcon-sa.org.za](http://www.cemcon-sa.org.za).