## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

## HITEX DIAMOND CAVITY PLASTER CLADDING SYSTEM

Hitex Diamond cavity plaster system (often called by its generic name EIFS) was manufactured between 2003 and 2010 by Hitex Building Systems Limited in response to the 'leaky building' crisis.

Hitex Diamond achieved a number of aims. The diamond cavity provided the first 2 'D's, Drainage and Drying, the undersill trays and detailing achieved better weathertightness the 3<sup>rd</sup> 'D' called Deflection and builders were requested to use decay resistant framing the 4<sup>th</sup> 'D' Durability.

During 2003-2005 cavity battens became included in Acceptable Solutions as one way of providing Drainage and Drying. Other detailing introduced better weathertightness and Standards clarified where fungicide treated framing should be used.

This notice is to provide a 'balanced' view. Some people have been obtaining building reports from inspectors and experts unfamiliar with the attributes of plaster claddings like Hitex Diamond Cavity System.

**Statement:** Hitex had no power over the treatment of the timber framing, or the quality of the many weathertightness detailing like roofs, gutters, soffits, windows, penetrations, garage door openings and finished ground lines. Likewise Hitex has no control over other systems that may also cause leaks like showers, wet areas, decks, plumbing and water pipes. Some buildings had more than one cladding. Hitex has no control over maintenance or alterations that may have been done since the cladding was installed.

**Recommendation:** It is our strongest recommendation that at a minimum owners, prospective purchasers, building inspectors and experts undertake what is termed 'invasive tests' before making comments on whether the building is 'leaking' or not. Invasive tests are the minimum inspection recommended because it provides the important 'Evidence' in making decisions:

- Whether the framing is adequately treated with an approved fungicide which excludes H1 and UTKD: Despite code changes we still found UTKD as late as 2010
- Are the weathertightness details working properly as if not framing could already be decayed and cause scan and Thermal misses
- Get moisture content readings in winter when rainfall is at peak to determine whether ALL the claddings, roof, gutters, windows and cladding(s) are functioning correctly.
- Has maintenance already been done and if so was the framing checked as it may already be decayed, but now dry because leaks have been fixed?

You cannot assume just because you have had someone inspect the building, or use a scanner or Thermal camera, even if they attest the inspections to have been done to NZS 4306:2005 that you are protected. This is a visual Standard although S4.2 does provide for special purpose reports including weathertightness reports but for some reason inspectors and experts do not invoke this requirement meaning the inspection falls well short of the Standard and protection you expect.

Invasive testing can be done in a way it does not damage the claddings. Go to www. moisturedetection.co.nz















