

Interchem™ P: Protecting Adelaide's Access Chambers

Access chambers are subject to cracks, leaks, and gas attack. If left untreated the structure can deteriorate to such an extent that costly structural repair may be required. Interchem™ P is a multi-layer coating designed to seal access chambers and protect against further gas attack.

The problem:

More than 100 access chambers required renewal as part of a total sewer renewal package. Most of the access chambers were located on busy residential roads. The access chambers showed signs of gas attack. Cost effective rectification and protection was required before further deterioration could lead to potentially expensive repair work in future.

The solution:

Although the access chambers were gas attacked they were still structurally sound so only a protective coating was required. Interchem™ P protects access chambers from further gas attack by sealing the exposed surfaces with a tough, hard-wearing coating that is resistant to the sewer environment. The coating is a two layer construction made up of an epoxy primer base and a polyurea top-coat.

The Project:

Interchem™ P was ideally suited to this project because it offered a cost-effective solution.

The client required Interflow to renew the total reticulation sewer network. This involved relining the sewer mains, sealing connection junctions, relining house service lines, and renewing the access chambers.

The Interchem™ P process firstly involved high pressure cleaning of the access chamber surfaces including the benching. The condition of each access chamber was inspected to determine if application of Interchem™ P was suitable. Any cracks were filled, leaks were plugged, and rusted step irons were removed.

The integrity of the concrete surfaces was then tested to ensure the access chamber was structurally sound. Cleanliness tests were conducted to confirm that the surface had been cleaned back to good concrete.

Epoxy primer is applied to the surface. The primer is necessary to ensure strong adhesion of the coating to the substrate.



Polyurea spraying

Finally, the top coat is applied; the polyurea components are pressurised and heated to 80°C using a plural proportioner machine.

The polyurea was sprayed onto the primed surfaces using a hand held spray gun. The final thickness of the coating was 3mm.

The polyurea cured in less than 5 seconds sealing the surfaces and forming a protective coating with;

- high abrasion resistance
- high impact resistance
- high flexibility
- excellent chemical resistance.



Finished product: access chamber coated with Interchem™ P.

The package of work was completed without interruption of the sewer service so there was no disruption to nearby residents. There was no excavation and minimal disruption to local traffic.

By protecting the access chambers against further gas attack and deterioration, Interchem™ P has renewed these assets and provided a fully sealed reticulation system.

For more information visit

www.interflow.com.au