

Destructive vs Non-destructive

Civil Engineering

A number against an indicator.

Destructive

- Cubes, cylinders, cores and coupons
- Gives a strength value directly
- Damages the element or takes a sample
- Only a few points ever get tested
- The reference others calibrate against

Non-destructive

- Rebound hammer, ultrasonic, covermeter
- Gives an indicator, not a strength
- Leaves the structure intact
- Cheap enough to survey many points
- Needs calibration against real cores

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Survey widely without damage, then confirm with cores where the answer matters.

Educational reference. Interpreting in-situ results is work for a qualified engineer under the relevant standard.