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Protection of concrete flexi-hoses

Did you know that the "mechanical pressing-in of the hose by external forces" is the most frequent cause for premature wearing of concrete pump hoses? This is exactly what happens to the concrete pump hose if, for example, a heavy machine drives over the hose line or if the hose rubs against a sharp steel edge when pumping concrete. The rubber hose contains a reinforcing layer of steel fibres, similar to a car tyre. Once the external rubber skin of the hose has been damaged, moisture and oxygen come into contact with the reinforcing steel fabric which reduces the lifespan of the hose. To assist in protecting flexi-hoses, Crossrail recommends the following:

- 1) **An additional layer of protection.** Whilst double-bagging is effective, it prevents easy inspection of the hose. An alternative is shown on the right which allows for visual inspection of the hose.



- 2) **Protection of hoses from site traffic.** Some examples are shown below, however the overall outcome should be the prevention of contact between vehicle traffic and hoses (whether under pressure or not), minimising risk of damage.

