

Using AI to Write About Shotcrete?

HERE ARE SOME THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

By Cara Baker



Many shotcrete professionals have valuable knowledge and experiences to share, but not everyone considers themselves a writer. If this is you, AI might seem like a useful (even downright magical) tool for drafting a project story or sharing lessons learned from the field.

It's true that AI can help organize your thoughts and get words on the page, but it works best when it's paired with your expertise. If you're using AI to help write an article about shotcrete, keep these tips in mind.

UNDERSTAND WHAT AI DOES WELL — AND WHAT IT DOESN'T

While AI can be a useful tool for creating a first draft, organizing information, and helping overcome the challenge of getting started, it doesn't understand shotcrete the way an experienced contractor, engineer, shotcreter, or owner does.

It generates text based on patterns in existing information. As a result, it can sometimes confuse shotcrete with conventional cast-in-place concrete, or overlook important details about materials, placement methods, equipment, or project requirements.

So it's important to think of AI not as a subject matter expert, but as more of a writing assistant.

DOUBLE-CHECK INDUSTRY TERMINOLOGY

A quick review of industry terminology can go a long way. Shotcrete professionals rely on precise language, and readers familiar with the industry will notice when something doesn't sound quite right.

AI may occasionally misuse technical terms or choose wording that sounds convincing but lacks accuracy. Before submitting your article, review the terminology to ensure it reflects industry standards, accepted practices, and your own lived experience.

ADD YOUR REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE

Your experience is what makes an article valuable. A shotcrete mining project is very different from a swimming pool, a repair project, or the latest architectural juggernaut. While AI can help create a framework for your story, *it doesn't know* what happened on your project site, what challenges your team faced, or what lessons were learned along the way.

Adding those details can help transform a generic article into one that other industry professionals can learn from.

LESS IS MORE

AI also likes to overly embellish sentences, becoming repetitive and redundant in an attempt to increase the word count. *Don't be fooled into thinking that quantity is more important than quality.* Make sure you read through to see if those extra words are really adding value to the article you want to write. Remember: Only you have the real-world background and knowledge that add *depth* to the content — not just a higher word count.

VERIFY FACTS, FIGURES, AND CLAIMS

AI will present information with confidence — even when that information is incomplete, outdated, or incorrect. If your article includes statistics, project data, historical information, production rates, material properties, or references to standards and specifications, take the time to verify them. Confirming facts before submitting helps maintain the credibility of both you and your article.

YOUR EXPERTISE IS WHAT READERS TRULY VALUE

At the end of the day, readers are interested in *your* experience — not the AI's. The most interesting and useful shotcrete articles feature the practical knowledge of people who work with shotcrete every day.

AI can help tell the story, but your expertise is what makes it accurate, credible, and worth reading. AI cannot replace industry knowledge: It is simply a tool that, used thoughtfully, can help you share your knowledge and experiences more effectively.