



Frequently Asked Questions

How long does concrete last before going hard?

Australian Standards suggest that concrete should be utilised within 90 minutes of leaving the concrete plant.

Should I place steel reinforcement in my concrete slab?

Concrete is strong in compression (squashing) and weak in tension (stretching). The introduction of steel (reinforcement) in concrete improves the strength of concrete in tension. In a slab-on-ground, reinforcement increases the tensile strength and helps control the width of shrinkage cracks. If soil conditions are known to be poor, eg expansive clay soils, consult a structural engineer.

How much concrete does the average concrete truck hold?

Our six wheel concrete trucks delivers 5.6m³ of concrete. A mini truck delivers 2.5m³ of concrete.

What strength concrete should I order?

25MPa is recommended for small footpaths, driveways, light footings, residential floors and industrial floors (light traffic).

32MPa is recommended for industrial floors (heavy traffic).

For advice regarding strength of concrete for any larger slabs or construction work, a structural engineer must be consulted.

Can I receive concrete on a Saturday?

Yes. Saturday is an extremely popular day for individual home owners to pour concrete. You will need to place your order early in the week. A Saturday pour incurs a weekend surcharge.

Can I have 'coloured' concrete?

Yes! We have over 50 colours to choose from. Browse our colour chart online or call into the plant and personally inspect the colour palette samples. A weeks' notice will need to be given prior to the pour to allow for ordering of colour.

What is polished concrete and can I choose this option for my house?

Polished concrete is used to describe a variety of decorative concrete flooring options which leave a concrete surface exposed as the final floor finish. Whilst more expensive than standard concrete, it is a popular finish. We only supply concrete aggregate to be utilised in a polished finish for large house slabs. Call to discuss options.

What is an expansion joint and when should they be used?

Expansion joints are used primarily to relieve stress due to confinement of a slab. An expansion joint should always be utilised where concrete will join an existing structure of any type. This would include a junction of footpaths, footpath with a driveway, building, kerb or other similar structure, as well as where a floor slab joins a column, staircase, etc.

The function of the joint is to relieve stress concentrations and to control or minimise the size and location of potential cracks in the slab. Larger slabs in particular require expansion joints at regular intervals. Expansion joints provide an added advantage when a slab is too large to finish in one pour – the individual sections created by the expansion joints can be poured one at a time.

What is an evaporation retardant?

A moisture evaporation retardant is designed to be used on concrete surfaces to reduce evaporative water loss which reduces the incidence of shrinkage cracking and enables concrete to remain workable during finishing. Ever-Ready Concrete sells CCS Aliphatic Alcohol, an evaporation retardant and finishing compound.

What is meant by 'curing' concrete?

The curing period for concrete is approximately 28 days after placing conventional concrete. New concrete can be wet with soaking hessian, sprinklers or covered with plastic sheets. Add only small amounts of water where possible. Concrete is more commonly cured with a commercial curing compound which seals in moisture. Ever-Ready Concrete sells CCS Slab Clad R, a water based membrane curing compound.

How do I make my concrete harden?

Concrete hardens as a result of hydration (the chemical reaction between cement and water). Hydration occurs only if water is available and if the concrete's temperature stays within a suitable range. After placing concrete, the concrete surface needs to be kept moist for a period of time to permit the hydration process.

When should I have my concrete saw cut?

Saw cuts will control shrinkage cracking if they are installed early enough in the curing stage and they are cut to the correct depth. To be effective, saw cutting must be carried out before the concrete starts to cool. If using a conventional wet saw (the best option as the cut can be made deeper), this means that cutting must be done between 4 and 12 hours (as per Australian Standards) after the surface finishing operations have ceased. The depth of saw cut for standard joint saws should be one third the thickness of the slab. If the saw cutting is not carried out in this narrow window of opportunity, then it is likely that it will not be effective in controlling cracking.

If a slab is poured in the early morning, it is too late to saw cut effectively the following day.

Why does concrete crack?

Like all other materials, concrete will slightly change in volume when it dries out. This change in volume brings about tensile stresses with the concrete which causes it to crack. This is the reason that contractors put joints in concrete pavements and slabs to allow the concrete to crack in a neat, straight line at the joint, allowing it to move when the volume of the concrete changes due to shrinkage. The prevailing weather conditions may also contribute to cracking with the risk most likely on warm days, dry days with low humidity and/or windy days.

What can I do to significantly reduce the risk of my concrete cracking?

It is highly recommended that your concreter carry out the following procedures to significantly reduce the incidence of shrinkage cracking:

- the site is prepared properly including where control joints will be;
- steel reinforcement is correctly placed;
- the formwork is level, firm and properly fixed in place;
- the concrete is compacted during placement (vibration);
- an evaporation retardant (liquid aliphatic alcohol) is applied to concrete immediately after screeding;
- a curing compound is applied to finished concrete;
- the concrete is saw cut within 4-12 hours after the surface finishing operations have finished; and
- the concrete is saw cut to a depth one third the thickness of the slab. Avoid, if possible, executing major concreting projects on hot days with low humidity or on windy days. If necessary, start early to avoid concreting in the middle of the day.

What causes surface dusting on my concrete slab?

Concrete surface dusting is typically caused by finishing the concrete surface too early, while bleed water is still rising to the surface. Thus working bleed water back into the concrete weakens the concrete surface resulting in dusting of the hardened concrete. Generally, repairing dusting floors is not difficult. If the problem is not severe, the surface can be repaired by applying a chemical surface hardener. In severe cases it may be necessary to grind the floor to remove the weak surface layer and apply a bonded topping.

How can I remove oil and grease stains from my concrete slab?

Oil and grease stains can be difficult to remove completely because they penetrate the concrete surface rapidly. If an oil spill occurs, stop it spreading by encircling with sand, dirt or sawdust. Soak up as much surface oil or grease as possible with an absorbent cloth or powder. Cover residue stain with a poultice made of 1 part lime to 2 parts mineral turpentine. Spread a 5mm layer of the paste over the stained area ensuring a margin of 50 to 100mm around edges. Cover with plastic sheeting and leave for 24 hours. Remove cover and scrape off the powder. It may be necessary to repeat this process again within a day or so. Scrub with warm water and detergent then rinse with clean water at the end of the treatment.

