

Best Practices for Placing Decorative Concrete

Ordering Decorative Concrete

- Use the same quality concrete mix design and water/cement ratio and maintain a consistent slump throughout the project. The use of admixtures from BASF available at Freeman Rock, Inc. can improve the concrete workability while maintaining lower water/cement ratios.
- To maintain color consistency, order decorative concrete in minimum of 3 yd increments.
- Calcium chloride accelerators will discolor the concrete surface. Use non-chloride accelerators from BASF available at Freeman Rock, Inc. to achieve fast concrete set time.

Placing Decorative Concrete

- Place concrete on a well-drained sub-grade that has adequate and uniform load-bearing characteristics and is thoroughly compacted and dampened.
- Adding water on-site to achieve a higher slump will lighten the color.
- Place concrete close to its final position to avoid potential segregation.
- Do not place concrete over freestanding water or muddy, frozen or soft spots.
- Concrete placed in the shade may display variations in color. This is normal and will subside in time.

Finishing Decorative Concrete

- Protect the concrete surface from rapid evaporation of bleed water. Use Confilm evaporation reducer from BASF available at Freeman Rock, Inc. as needed.
- Texture all surfaces adequately and uniformly for slip resistance.
- Finish all surfaces consistently and at similar times after placement.
- Finish the edges first and do all handwork in the same direction.
- Do not sprinkle water or add water to the surface during finishing operations. This will lighten the surface color.
- Over-troweling or burnishing the concrete surface will cause discoloration and darkening of the surface color.

Curing Decorative Concrete

- For best results, all decorative concrete should be cured. Do not use plastic sheeting or water method to cure decorative concrete.
- Use BASF's Kure 1315 water-based curing compound or a compatible curing compound available at Freeman Rock, Inc.
- Until it is completely cured, the color of concrete is normally less uniform and appears darker than the final color.
- Do not allow items to stand on the concrete during and immediately following the curing process.

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