

Curing and Sealing Guidelines for Exterior Concrete

CURING CONCRETE

To Increase the durability and service life of exterior concrete, it must be properly cured. Properly cured concrete retains the water added at the time of batching to prolong and maximize the hydration process of the concrete. Properly hydrated concrete increases strength, abrasion or freeze/thaw resistance, decreases permeability and in turn extends the service life of concrete. Concrete curing should consist of one of the following methods. Inadequate curing can result in a significant loss of surface strength. Also, always use an air-entrained recommended concrete mix, and use proper finishing techniques.

CURING CONCRETE BEFORE OCTOBER 1ST

Option 1: MEMBRANE FORMING CURING COMPOUND

Apply a *uniform* curing compound membrane **immediately** and no later than one (1) hour after the final finishing is completed. In hot weather, flush the surface with water before curing to minimize alkali-silica reaction (ASR).

Method 1: CPC CURE & SEAL (Solvent or Water Base -WB)

Immediately and no later than one (1) hour after the final finishing is completed, Apply CPC Cure & Seal at a *coverage rate not to exceed 300 square feet per gallon* for broom finished concrete. Overuse may result in uneven color or discoloration; reference the product data sheet for coverage on all other concrete finishes.

Method 2: CPC Dissipating Cure (Water Base)

Immediately and no later than one (1) hour after the final finishing is completed, Apply CPC Dissipating Cure (WB) at a rate of 200-300 square feet per gallon for broom finished concrete. Reference the product data sheet for coverage rate on all other concrete finishes.

NOTE: It is recommended to use *more* curing compound per sqft with ALL granite mixes.

AFTER CURING, CONCRETE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DRY FOR A MONTH PRIOR TO WINTER WEATHER.

Option 2: WET CURE

Wet curing methods are chosen by top professionals to provide thorough hydration, less discoloration and a more *evenly* cured slab. New recommended wet curing products manufactured with *Natural Cellulose Fabric* provide constant hydration and maintain 100% relative humidity condition on the slab providing a curing period up to 14 days.

CURING CONCRETE AFTER OCTOBER 1ST

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS MUST BE TAKEN WHEN PLACING/CURING EXTERIOR CONCRETE AFTER OCTOBER 1ST. CONCRETE SHOULD BE KEPT ABOVE 55 DEGREES FOR A MINIMUM OF 7 DAYS.

Contact your Cemstone Sales Representative for more information.



2025 Centre Pointe Boulevard
Suite 300
Mendota Heights, MN 55120
www.cemstone.com

SEALING CONCRETE

Properly sealing concrete helps maintain the appearance and durability of the concrete *after* it has had adequate time to cure; typically this is approximately 30 days following placement. Sealing is designed to keep moisture and contaminants, like deicing chemicals, from being absorbed into the concrete. Since sealers eventually will degrade from environmental affects and no longer function as intended, concrete should be sealed on a regular basis in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions or as needed. Sealing your concrete should consist of one of the following methods.

SEALING CONCRETE BEFORE OCTOBER 1ST

Method 1: IF THE CONCRETE HAS BEEN CURED WITH CPC CURE & SEAL (SOLVENT OR WB): Approximately thirty (30) days after installation & no later than the first winter, apply CPC Cure and Seal, CPC Super Clear Coat, CPC Super Diamond Glaze, DURA-CRETE® Weather Shield or CPC Siloxane *Final Seal* to the concrete. Recommended coverage rate varies by product and concrete finish, please verify recommended coverage rate at the time of purchase.

Method 2: IF THE CONCRETE HAS BEEN CURED WITH CPC DISSIPATING CURE WB:

Approximately thirty (30) days after installation & no later than the first winter, seal the concrete by applying a CPC Siloxane, a *penetrating* water repellent sealer, at a rate of 100 to 200 square feet per gallon, surface finish will determine actual coverage rate. An aggressive power washing or power brooming may be required to remove the dissipating cure.

NOTE: When using a dissipating cure or wet cure method it allows for the flexibility to use *ALL* the recommended concrete sealers.

SEALING CONCRETE AFTER OCTOBER 1ST

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS MUST BE TAKEN WHEN PLACING/SEALING EXTERIOR CONCRETE AFTER OCTOBER 1ST. Contact your Cemstone Sales Representative for more information.

ADDITIONAL PRODUCT RECOMMENDATIONS:

CPC Finish Ease: Prevents the rapid drying of exposed plastic concrete, which can cause finishing problems. CPC Finish Ease does NOT replace proper curing procedures.

Tri-Grip: A synthetic aggregate mixed into acrylic sealers designed to create a non-slip surface.

Siloxane Dye: A specially formulated waterproofing treatment with pigment added to help produce a uniform color on concrete.

Guidelines should not be used as a substitute for project specifications / requirements and / or competent engineering advice. Cemstone cannot be responsible for misuse of these guidelines.