



## Concrete Placement Best Practices

### *Place and finishing of concrete slab for **"Salt and Pepper" floor finish***

The following best practice procedures should be used when placing a slab that is to be polished to produce a "Salt and Pepper" finish. These procedures will help assure a more uniform appearance once the slab is polished and will help reduce/limit areas of less uniformity

1. Limit walking on soft concrete. Footprints can reproduce in the finished polished product
2. Cleanouts/Drains and items embedded in the slab that are to be flush with the finished floor should be placed approximately 1/16" below grade at placement
3. Hand trowel "chatter" marks should be avoided. These can reproduce in the finished polished product
4. Power trowel "burn" marks should be avoided. This can produce discoloring and take more aggressive grinding to try to remove
5. Power trowels should not sit on the slab for any extended period, this can produce curing differential and permanent hydration marks
6. Curing- the slab should be wet cured using either 6 mil black poly or moisture retaining blankets such as Ultracure. Curing compounds should be avoided as they can hinder penetration of densifiers, colour and finish coats
7. Plastic finishing blades are recommended for more uniformity in finish appearance
8. Floor flatness should be a minimum of Ff40
9. Floor finish practices should be the same as those used when producing a slab that will be used as the final finish. It should not be assumed that the polishing process will remove all imperfections in the slab finish

### *Placement and Finishing of a polished **"Exposed Aggregate" Concrete slab***

The following best practice procedures should be used when placing a slab that is to be polished to produce an "Exposed Aggregate" finish. Although it is not possible to completely control the placement of aggregate in a concrete slab, these procedures will help assure a more uniform appearance once the slab is polished and will help reduce/limit areas of less uniformity.

1. If desired finished is to have coloured aggregates in mix specify bank run gravel, or other special aggregates, otherwise standard limestone mix can be specified
2. Slump at point of placement not to exceed 5", with or without the use of plasticizer. The purpose of this is to help suspend the larger aggregate throughout the mix
3. Vibratory screeds are not to be used. Vibration tends to send the larger aggregate away from the surface and bring finer aggregate to the surface

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4. Hand casting of concrete to fill voids behind the straightedge and just before use of bull float must be avoided when possible. This tends to create areas with less large aggregate. A continuous buildup of concrete must be present behind the straightedge when it is being pulled
5. Placement techniques similar to those used when placing exposed aggregate mixed should be followed. The slab surface should not be overworked with the bull float and ridges created from the edges of the bull float should be kept to a minimum. If placing a "bowled" slab or area, bull float lengths should be adjusted so as to limit its edges from digging into the slab.
6. Limit walking on soft concrete. Footprints can reproduce in the finished polished product
7. Cleanouts/Drains and items embedded in the slab that are to be flush with the finished floor should be placed approximately 1/16"-1/8" below grade at placement
8. Hand trowel "chatter" marks should be avoided. These can reproduce in the finished polished product
9. Power trowel "burn" marks should be avoided. This can produce discoloring and take more aggressive grinding to try to remove
10. Power trowels should not sit on the slab for any extended period, this can produce curing differential and permanent hydration marks
11. Curing- the slab should be wet cured using either 6 mil black poly or moisture retaining blankets such as Ultracure. Curing compounds should be avoided as they can hinder penetration of densifiers, colour and finish coats
12. Plastic finishing blades are recommended for more uniformity in finish appearance
13. Floor flatness should be a minimum of Ff40
14. Floor finish practices should be the same as those used when producing a slab that will be used as the final finish. It should not be assumed that the polishing process will remove all imperfections in the slab finish

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