

## HELPFUL INFORMATION AND FAQs

### Can I colour my concrete?

We recommend adding a black oxide to your concrete. This will take away the white glare that you get from standard concrete. Oxide is usually added at 5kgs – 10kgs per m<sup>3</sup> of concrete and generally only increases your m<sup>2</sup> rate by about \$6-\$12 per m<sup>2</sup>. Speciality colours can also be added which you can check out at [www.peterfell.co.nz](http://www.peterfell.co.nz)

### What is Exposed Concrete?

Exposed aggregate concrete is a finish achieved by laying a concrete with the chosen type of aggregate/stone and applying a “surface retarder” to the concrete once placement has been finished which prevents the top 3mm or so from setting. This exposes the top of the aggregate/stone. Usually a round riverstone is used in grey or brown tones.

### What is acid washing/etching?

Acid washing and etching is a hydrochloric acid and water mix which will clean or remove some of the top layer of the concrete. It can be used to even the finish the concrete and can take it back to a more salt & pepper finish.

### What is concrete sealer?

Concrete sealers are applied to concrete to protect it from surface damage, corrosion, and staining. Concrete must be acid washed prior to sealing. It is recommended that you reapply sealer every 2-5 years. There is a dry look sealer which won't change the look of your dry concrete but will protect it. Or the standard sealer will darken the look of your concrete. There are also a huge range of stain colours which can be added to your sealer. These can be viewed on the Permacolour website [www.permacolour.co.nz](http://www.permacolour.co.nz)

### Floating Steps, Stepping Stones and Mowing Strips

Floating steps or stepping stones raise the impact of your entrance way. These are quoted on an individual basis and the preparation and boxing side of these can be quite involved.

### What should you do?

You should check you are happy with where your concrete is once we have boxed it and before it is poured. Think about where you may like gardens, paths, where you will park and turn around. Would you like concrete pads for your bins, aircon units, dog kennels? Boxing can easily be moved before we pour it. Before the pour please secure all pets, remove all cars and other items in the way.

### Marks on wet concrete

If you concrete gets marked or walked on, please contact us asap. Don't try to fix it yourself.

### When can I walk on my concrete?

Concrete can be walked on the following day but the longer you can leave it to cure, the better. Foot traffic can discolour, scuff and scratch the concrete.

### When can I drive on my concrete?

Concrete can be driven on after 7 days. If you are sealing your concrete, don't drive on it until it has been sealed. Quite often cars will leave tire marks and oil stains which are hard to remove before sealing.

### Do I need mesh in my concrete?

Mesh does not stop concrete from cracking! Adding mesh generally increases the cost of your concrete significantly as you need to pay for the mesh plus a concrete pump. A standard residential driveway with a good hard base does not need mesh. Situations where you may need mesh are soft ground, slopes and for heavy traffic. An alternative to mesh is steel fibre which can be added to concrete to strengthen it and does not require a pump.

### **Weather**

If the the weather forecast is for rain we will generally postpone your concrete pour. Due to scheduling and concrete being booked weeks ahead we will move your pour to our next available “cover” booking. This is usally within the next 5 days. Unfortunately, it is unlikely a cover booking will fall on the day following your orginal booking.

### **Discolouration**

Concrete is a natural product and will never provide a uniform colour. Discolouration is usually due to the concrete/cement mix or due to moisture from the ground underneath. Fresh concrete will show up marks from finishing. These marks generally fade over time.

### **Cracking**

We do everything possible to avoid cracking with expansion cuts. We will also add grooved joints to allow concrete to crack along while we are placing the concrete. Unfortunately we cannot guarantee the abense of cracks.

### **Concrete Cutting**

Concrete can be cut as early as the following day (during summer) or as late as 4 days later in the colder months. Cutting concrete too early can cause it to chip as it has not finished curing/hardening. Generally we will cut standard expansion cuts to prevent cracking but you can add additional cuts for decorative purposes.



Half charcoal driveway acid etched and sealed



Half charcoal driveway acid etched and sealed



Fresh powerfloat lines, these will fade over time



Half charcoal natural



Exposed stepping stones and half charcoal pool surround



Half charcoal floating step and path



Plain concrete acid etched and sealed (no oxide)