

DECORATIVE STAMP CONCRETE FLOOR

INSTALLATION GUIDE FORM

Prior to installation of the material, please read this form carefully.

Decorative Stamp Concrete Floor is an attractive alternative to natural paving materials or plain poured concrete. You can achieve many different looks, and with advance planning, will be able to get just the right look for the project.

STEP 1

Choose a colour and texture of concrete that complements the natural surroundings and adjacent structures.

Special consideration should be given to the orientation of grout lines, particularly in repetitive patterns such as Old English Stamp, London Cobble Stone or Herringbone Stamp. Generally, the area should be stamped so that long lines of the pattern run perpendicular to the length of the project. This will help reduce straight-line errors and provide a more pleasant and aesthetic overall appearance. Typically texture runs in straight lines, even when walks or drives are curved. Always perform a trial run, placing mats in the area prior to the pour. The crew should know ahead of time where the first mat will be placed, as well as aware of areas where a standard mat won't fit, and in what direction stamping will proceed. Always plan accordingly to ensure best results. It is very

important to bear in mind the location of expansion and control joints (the thin lines you see in just about everything concrete). These will be required and may disrupt the visual pattern you had planned for.

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STEP 2

Placement of the concrete.

Follow normal procedures with a sub-grade and concrete base that meets the planned specifications and local requirements for mix, depth and reinforcement. A normal, or retarded-set, water-reducing admixture, can be used, but admixtures must not contain Calcium Chloride. Yet, non-chloride accelerators and air-retaining admixtures can still be used. (Please note: Some admixtures may affect colour). The concrete should be no less than four inches in thickness.

Note

1. Laying layer of polyethylene sheet under the reinforcement is highly recommended for maintain the moisture in the concrete for a longer time

STEP 3

Colour the concrete.

Apply colour hardener powder directly to the freshly poured concrete surface. Colour hardener will penetrate the top of the concrete slab 1/8" and colour thoroughly.

STEP 4

Remember after initial floating and all excess bleed water has been absorbed, you should broadcast colour hardener using a wide sweeping arm movement with the intention of covering as much concrete as possible with each throw. Allow the hardener to be absorbed for several minutes until it has moistened sufficiently to work the colour in with a wood or magnesium float. One pass with the float

should be sufficient; do not overwork the concrete. If necessary, repeat this process in areas where natural concrete is showing through. When you are satisfied with the colour, finish with a fresno or steeltrowel.

STEP 5

Apply the colour release agent.

Texture mats will not work without the use of a release agent. This specially formulated powder prevents mats from sticking to freshly placed concrete. Generally 1100 grams of material is required per 100 square feet. As the slab approaches its optimum set for texturing, the release agent should be applied. It should be brushed onto the mats and broadcast across the surface of the concrete. There should be a uniform layer of release between the concrete and the texture mats; thick enough to prevent damp concrete from bleeding through to the mat, yet thin enough so as not to diminish the texture detail.

STEP 6

Choose a colour of release agent to complement the colour of the concrete.

A release agent with a darker tone than the colouring agent will provide depth and shadowing in the finished concrete. Most of the release agent will be removed when the finished project is pressure washed. The primary concrete colour will dominate and approximately 20% of the release agent will adhere to the surface of the concrete.

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STEP 7

Texture the concrete.

At the optimum time for texturing, great force is not necessary to press the mat into the concrete. Timing is critical so work should proceed without delay once texturing begins. Likewise, inspect the area periodically so that necessary touch-up work can begin as soon as possible.

STEP 8

Texture the concrete.

Find a team to help you lay the mats. Below is an outline of a four-man crew as suggested for the largest recommended project pour, 400 square feet. More experienced crews may be able to colour and stamp as much as 700 square feet per pour, but it is recommended to begin with smaller areas. This process can be adapted to fit specific project needs.

- Worker 1: Fluffs the release agent throughout the application process. Broadcasts release agent. Identifies areas that require touch up work. Acts as a general helper.

- Worker 2: Places the texture mats. The first mat should be carefully aligned, placed and tamped in at the starting point of the project. Repeat the process by placing the second mat next to the first. Place

mats tightly together to avoid messy grout line patterns. Continue with mats on hand, leapfrogging the mats as they are removed and replaced in the concrete. A minimum of three mats should be used for smaller pours. Larger projects require additional mats.

- Worker 3: Tamps the mats as they are placed. Mats should be tamped straight down into the concrete using no more force than necessary to press the mat flush to the concrete. Do not over tamp!

- Worker 4: Carefully removes the tamped mats by lifting gradually from one side first to break the suction. Passes mats to Worker 1 for preparation of next placement.

STEP 9

Use a high-powered pressure washer (3000 PSI is recommended, but be careful, concrete can be damaged) approximately 24 hours after the concrete has achieved initial set.

This is to remove excess release agent from the surface of the concrete.

STEP 10

When the slab is thoroughly dry, a choice of Liquid Colour proportionately mixed with Flex Seal and water is sprayed on the Stamp Concrete Floor. This technique enhances the depth and shadowing in the finished concrete.

STEP 11

Seal the concrete with an appropriate decorative stamp concrete sealer/acrylic sealer according to manufacturer directions.

When the slab is thoroughly dry, sealer should be applied using a roller. One Kg covers 30-40 square feet depending on the texture of Stamp Concrete. A light coat should be applied in one direction and a second coat should be applied in a perpendicular direction in order to avoid unwanted lines. Be careful to avoid a buildup of sealer in the corners.