



## **Concrete Care and Maintenance**

Homeowners have a right to expect their exterior concrete to serve them well for many years. It will, if you practice these tips in placing and caring for your concrete driveways, sidewalks, patios and garage floors.

**Use an air-entrained exterior concrete mix and proper finishing techniques.**

**Cure concrete** immediately after the final finishing operation for a minimum of seven days, keeping the concrete above 55°Fahrenheit. Spray-on curing compounds are a cost effective, commonly used method. Wet curing, using burlap or curing mats, is the preferred method, specifically for concrete containing alkali reactive aggregates. Inadequate curing can result in up to a 50% loss of surface strength.

**After curing, concrete should be allowed to dry for a month prior to winter weather.** A breathable sealer applied following the manufacturer's recommendations can provide an additional level of protection.

**Keep lawn and garden fertilizers off concrete** as they can cause rapid disintegration.

**Never use deicers on any concrete surface during its first year of service.** Use plain, clean sand when increased skid resistance is needed. Snow clinging to the underside of cars and plowed onto driveway from streets may contain deicers and should be removed immediately.

**Sodium Chloride (also known as common salt, table salt, rock salt or halite) is the preferred deicer when necessary.** Other deicers, such as magnesium chloride, may chemically attack concrete causing premature deterioration.

Additional Questions?

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