



Curing Concrete

The American Concrete Institute (ACI) defines curing as ‘the action taken to maintain moisture and temperature conditions in a freshly placed cementitious mixture to allow hydraulic cement hydration and (if applicable) pozzolanic reactions to occur so that the potential properties of the mixture may develop’.

Advantages of Proper Curing

- A less permeable, more water tight concrete. Reduced permeability means the concrete will be more resistant to freezing, salt scaling and attack by chemicals.
- Curtails formation of plastic shrinkage cracks caused by rapid surface drying
- Increase abrasion resistance, as the surface of the concrete will have higher strength
- Significant reduction in scaling problems
- Promotes uniform surface color

How to Cure Concrete

- Water Cure:** The concrete is flooded or ponded. It is the most effective curing method of preventing mix water evaporation.
- Water Retaining Methods:** Use coverings such as canvas, burlap or straw that is kept continuously wet. The material used must be kept damp during the curing period.
- Chemical Membranes:** The chemical application should be made as soon as the concrete is finished. Note that curing compounds can affect adherence of resilient flooring.

Reminder: The benefits of curing concrete are significant, as are the problems if curing is not performed.

Additional Questions?

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