

Data Sheet

Placement & Curing

In all cases the concrete must be got to the point of placing as quickly and economically as possible without allowing segregation, loss of any constituents, or contamination after it has left the mixer.

- Correct placing of the concrete is essential.
- Avoid moving the concrete with poker vibrators and try not to place concrete in heaps as this can cause segregation and weakening of the concrete.
- Fresh concrete should be sufficiently compacted but not overly compacted and risk segregation.
- Compaction, if done properly, eliminates the air voids in the concrete which increases both strength and durability. If the correct compaction is not achieved this can leave the concrete permeable and susceptible to freeze-thaw action in colder winter months. This also allows the ingress of salts that are detrimental to the life of the concrete.
- Fresh concrete should also be properly cured; this means that the concrete should have sufficient time to lose moisture while also being kept at a constant temperature.
- In areas of high wind and warm temperatures, moisture loss from the concrete is accelerated. In these areas, measures such as covering the concrete in plastic sheeting should be adopted to slow down the moisture loss.
- In cold weather, you must cover the fresh concrete in straw to help protect it from frost damage. Another hazard is the use of salt to de-ice driveways. Salts of any kind are severely harsh on concrete and can cause serious defects in concrete. Please avoid salt contact with concrete to prolong its life.