



HOMEOWNER BOOKLET

EARTHQUAKE REPAIRS

SAFETY IS OUR TOP PRIORITY

With the repair work about to begin on your home, it is our responsibility to ensure that you and your family, our workers, subcontractors and the public remain safe while working near the worksite within your property.

Once we start on the agreed date, we become main contractors and are responsible for any injuries that may occur onsite. It is imperative that you and your family try to stay clear of the agreed works area.



OUR HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY

Affordable Concrete & Paving is committed to providing a safe workplace. This ongoing commitment is extended not only to employees, but also subcontractors, homeowners, visitors and members of the public.

To achieve this Affordable Concrete & Paving will:

- » Provide a safe, healthy and enjoyable work environment
- » Ensure that staff comply with all relevant health and safety legislation, standards and codes of practice
- » Maintain a safety management plan, policy and systems
- » Insist that safe work methods are being used at all times
- » Provide ongoing information, supervision and training
- » Accurately report and record specific information relating to safety as well as rehab for work injuries or illness
- » Provide a system for continuous improvement
- » Support an early return to work for injured employees

As employees we will:

- » Practice safe work methods at all times
- » Report all incidents and near misses
- » Work safely
- » Look out for each other



PLEASE BE CAREFUL


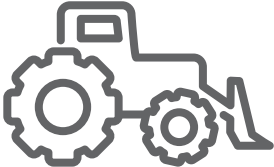

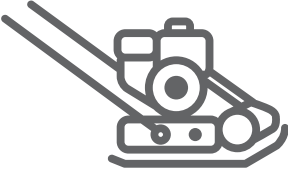


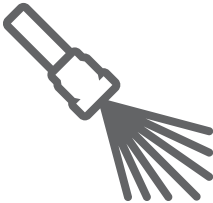
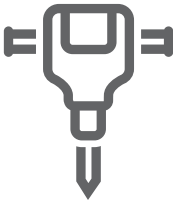
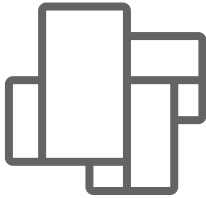
YOUR HOME IS NOW A CONSTRUCTION SITE

While our team is working onsite, there are a number of hazards that can cause serious injury. Here is a list of most the hazards we need you and your family to watch for:



MACHINERY

We use a number of machines and tools onsite to complete the works including:

		
EXCAVATORS	BOBCATS	TIPPER TRUCKS
		
COMPACTION EQUIPMENT	CONCRETE/ASPHALT TRUCKS	CONCRETE PUMPS
		
WATERBLASTING EQUIPMENT	JACKHAMMERS	CONCRETE FINISHING EQUIPMENT



FORMWORK (BOXING)

Once the old concrete or asphalt is removed, we will prepare for the new surface to be installed. We will form up the new areas with timber formwork. Timber pegs are used to support the forms and are very dangerous if you are not careful. Please do your best to steer clear of our formwork, as we do not want anyone to have an accidental fall on one of them.



CONCRETE

Once we place any new concrete it will still be in a plastic state until the following day. During this time. Please do not let any children or pets go near the concrete. Concrete has many chemicals in it and if it is handled, chemical burns can occur. Our teams all wear gloves when handling it.



ACID WASHING

With some finishes including exposed aggregate, the surface is cleaned with a hydrochloric acid wash to remove any concrete lime or dirt on the concrete prior to sealing. This is a highly toxic chemical and very dangerous to any children or pets. Please keep them away until the surface has dried. This is in most cases the following day.



SEALING

Once the concrete is dry the surface is sealed with a high build acrylic sealer. This takes 24 hours to reach an initial "touch dry" curing stage. During this time it is dangerous to the touch and can cause chemical burns.



CHEMICALS

There are also a number of harmful chemicals including hydrochloric acid and concrete sealer, which are kept stored away in our vehicles when not in use.

PLEASE NOTE As you can see there many hazards to keep a close watch on. While we have staff onsite we are able to monitor these very closely. As we are not going to be onsite all the time, it is in everybody's best interests that our designated work area is kept clear of. If you or your family spot any potential hazards, please give our safety officer, Katie Grant a call on **03 3542 140**.

CONCRETE CRACKS

**My concrete will never crack again, will it?
Unfortunately, yes.**

A common misconception with concrete is that your new concrete will not crack. Cracking is a very frequent cause of complaint in the concrete industry. Cracks in concrete can be the result of or a combination of a number of factors.

These include:

- » Drying shrinkage (the most common)
- » Thermal contraction
- » Subgrade settlement
- » Applied heavy loads
- » Christchurch's specialty, earthquakes!

Although we use all possible measures and best practice, cracks will occur!

All steps are taken at the preparation (excavation and base preparation). There are a number of steps taken during and after the concrete is placed also.

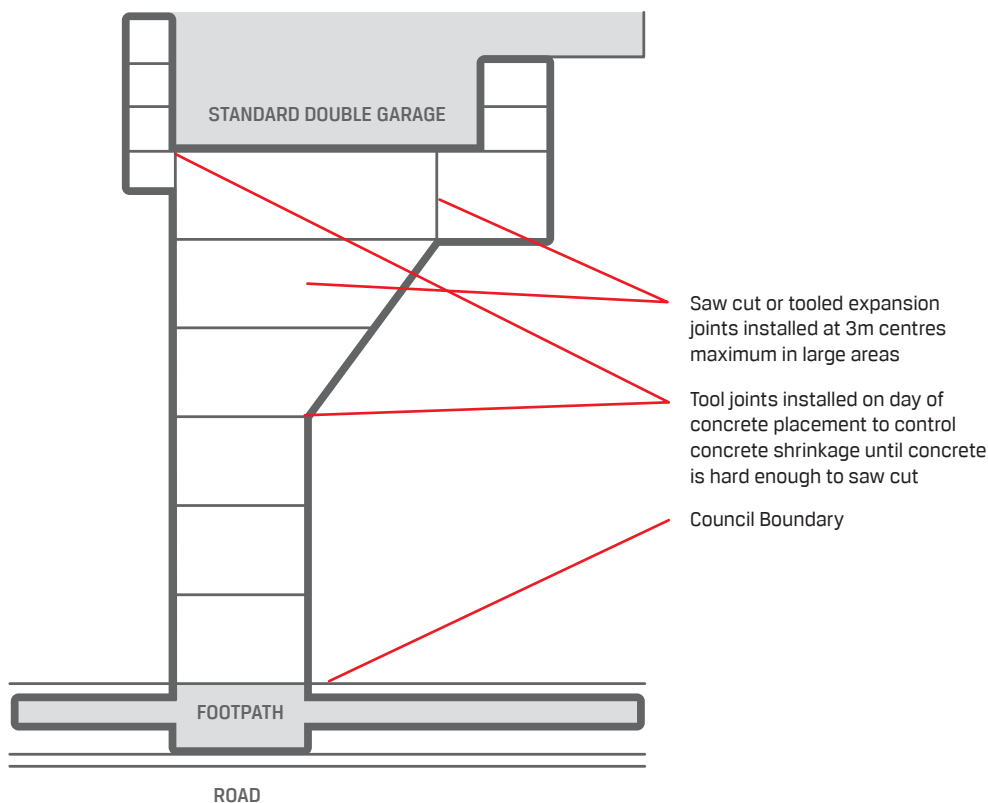
We use higher-grade 25mpa strength concrete, fibre reinforcing added to the concrete and many control joints are installed during the placing and finishing of the concrete to induce cracks where we can. The concrete is then mechanically cut afterwards (usually a couple of days depending on the time of year) into smaller sections. Even with all of these steps, there is a chance that cracking will occur. Hence we do not provide a guarantee against cracking after the first 48 hours of concrete placement.

NOTE All concrete we supply is guaranteed to come from a specified concrete plant with a quality assured firm (ISO9001).



WHAT WILL THE JOINTS LOOK LIKE?

Below is a standard jointing plan. This is how the joints are usually laid out on a standard concrete driveway. This will change dependent on the shape of your slab.



This is a diagram of a typical joint layout for a standard residential driveway. It is designed for a slab of 100mm thickness and 20mpa strength concrete. The expansion joints are installed by mechanical concrete saw or by hand using specially designed hand tools to a depth of 30–40mm.

Expansion joints (Saw cuts, tool joints) are installed at 3m X 3m centres on average. This is the optimum distance to control cracking on a 100mm concrete slab.

On paths, the joints are installed no further apart than 3 times the width of the path. For example, if the path is 1m wide then the joints will be no further apart than 3m.

These cuts will have to be installed at our discretion to any points we deem are potential points to either induce or prevent cracks.

TYPES OF JOINTS

» Control Tool Joints

These are installed on the day of concrete placing to induce a crack at crucial points to help control cracking of the slab in the interim before the bulk of the saw cuts are installed by concrete saw within a couple of days.

» Saw Cuts

These are installed mechanically with various different sized concrete saws. The concrete has to be hard enough to avoid chipping along the cuts. This is usually within a couple of days of placing the concrete.

SHOULD I ADD STEEL REINFORCING?

There is no doubt that steel adds tensile strength to the overall concrete slab. It also will hold the slab together over time. If you do get settlement or movement from another earthquake then the steel will hold the concrete slab together.

BUT WILL IT STOP THE CONCRETE CRACKING?

It won't stop the concrete cracking but it will stop any potential cracks opening up any further than they would have had there been no steel reinforcing.

WOULD WE RECOMMEND IT?

Absolutely. We would definitely recommend adding steel reinforcing especially to a driveway. For a couple of main reasons. A driveway will get far more weight on it over time. There is a much higher chance of movement in this slab than on a patio. Also, although we excavate 100mm of soil and install 100mm of compacted hardfill under your new driveway, we cannot control what is underneath that 100mm of hardfill. The ground may have more settlement over time.

We supply and install 668 or 665 steel mesh reinforcing upon request. In most cases you will have been given an option for steel reinforcing at the time of quoting.

ASPHALT

If asphalt is part of your project, this is generally removed at the time of the removal of any concrete and hard surfaces. Once the asphalt is removed and the base is prepared and re graded ready for the new surface to be laid. As this is very weather dependent, we usually provide a window of a few days where the asphalt will be installed.

How long do I stay off the surface?

Once it is laid you will be able to walk on it within a couple of hours. Please keep the car off for 4 days.

Don't screw your tyres!

Asphalt is nowhere as hard as concrete. In hot weather, the asphalt gets soft. Screwing your tyres on the surface will break it down, especially if it is in the same spot.

PAVING

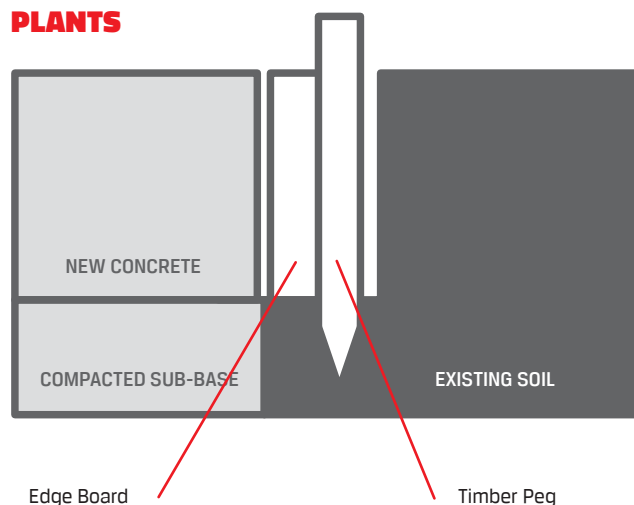
If you have paving in your project then this will be lifted and re-laid towards the end of the works onsite. In many cases where we lay new concrete, the levels will be different than what was there before. If your paving is hard against it will be adjusted also to suit the new levels.

DECKING & LANDSCAPING

We will rebuild and decking or landscape structures at this stage too.

Decks can be built in all shapes and sizes. You may decide to expand your existing deck or add a deck in lieu of an existing concrete area which is not practical. Have a talk to our team to work out the details.

PLANTS

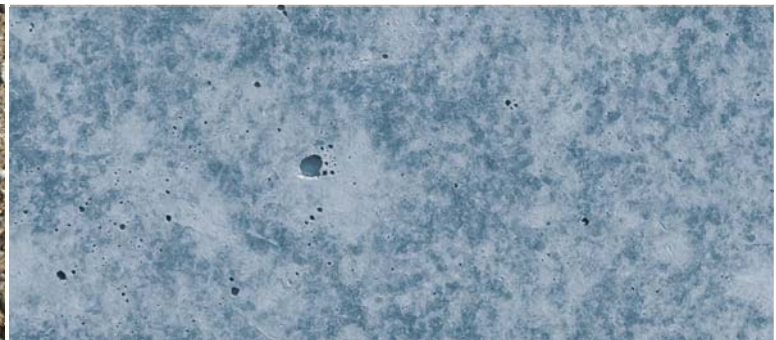


When your existing concrete is excavated, our team take all due care to avoid damaging your plants lining the driveway. Unfortunately, some will need to be trimmed back. To install your new concrete to where it was before, the edges have to be excavated back a further 50–80mm so that we can lay our formwork.

If you have certain plants that you are particularly fond of that border the edges of the concrete, please remove them until after the works are finished. While the concrete is poured the areas bordering the concrete will need to be walked on. Our team are very careful but some plants will more than likely get walked on. As the site is now a construction site, areas adjacent to the work area are also considered so. With most sites there are areas at the rear of the property, which will require excavation. In some cases we will need to cross a lawn area to get at it. In winter these areas can take a bit of a beating. We will try to minimise this but some minor damage will most likely occur.

After works are completed, the void left by the formwork will be backfilled with soil and grass seed to lawn areas etc.

DECORATIVE CONCRETE



EXPOSED AGGREGATE

Exposed Aggregate is concrete, which has the surface of the finished concrete "exposed" to reveal the aggregates in the concrete. It is very popular throughout New Zealand for its hardwearing surface and. It is especially suited to driveways and high traffic areas.

Things to remember with Exposed Aggregate:

- » It is a natural product; therefore you always get inconsistencies within a job. The stone density, depth of exposure and colour of stones do vary even within small concrete slabs. This is to be expected and this natural look of Exposed Aggregate is part of the reason it is so popular.
- » It is a messy job. The surface of the concrete has a surface retardant sprayed on the concrete when the concrete is still in its plastic state, which stops the surface hardening. The following day, the surface is then water blasted off to reveal the aggregate. Although all care is taken, it is still a messy job. Our team do a thorough clean up but some mess is to be expected.

COLOURED CONCRETE

Coloured mineral oxide powders can be added to the concrete at the batching plant and the entire mix of the concrete is coloured. This is a very long lasting finish, which is growing rapidly in popularity because it is a very hardwearing surface that will last without being sealed.

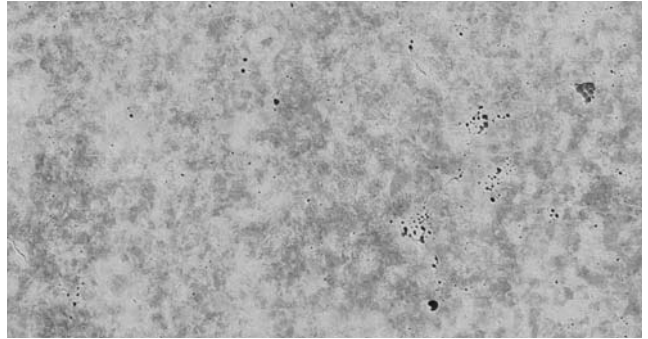
Things to remember with Coloured Concrete:

- » It is a natural product. The concrete does look very mottled. We acid wash and seal the product, which does even the colour but the colour can change dramatically day by day. Due to concrete being very porous, it will change colour through moisture ingress from both on top and underneath the slab. For many people, this is what they find attractive about it.
- » The colour may not be exactly what you have chosen. Because the concrete is made from natural sand and stone. The concrete itself can change colour from day to day, even load to load of concrete. What you have seen in a photo or in a display should be used as a guide only. It is **NOT** paint. Please consider this carefully when making a decision on choosing your finish.
- » Decorative saw cutting is a great upgrade to your coloured or plain concrete. It gives the look of large pavers without the hassle of weeds growing through and pavers moving up and down over time. Talk to your Project Manager about your options. These are usually cut into 1m x 1m approx. squares.

WHY DO YOU SEAL DECORATIVE CONCRETE?

Sealing decorative concrete prevents water from penetrating concrete. Water erosion is one of the main causes concrete to deteriorate over time. Sealing also keeps out salt, chemicals, dirt, and plant growth. In the case of Exposed Aggregate Concrete, sealing with a concrete sealer helps prevent the stones from loosening over time by creating a barrier between the aggregate and the elements. Thus it will extend the life of the concrete.

PLAIN CONCRETE



GOOD OLD GREY

We do more removal and relaying of plain concrete than anything else. Although it is not the best-looking product in the whole world, It is a super hardwearing surface that requires very little or no maintenance.

Things to remember with Plain Concrete:

- » Concrete is a natural product and cures over a period of a few months. This curing does not occur evenly. It is expected that your new concrete will have a very mottled look. Some jobs much more so than others. This is far more apparent with plain and coloured concrete.
- » When plain concrete is laid it does look very bright. Over time the surface does break down and fade to grey like the old driveways and paths you see around Christchurch. There are a number of options to upgrade and colour your concrete. We recommend adding a small shot of black colour to the concrete. This can be done at a very reasonable cost and really takes the brightness away from the new slab. This can be discussed with your Project Manager or at the time of quoting.

WE RECOMMEND adding a small shot of black colour to the concrete. This can be done at a very reasonable cost and really takes the brightness away from the new slab. This can be discussed at the time of quoting or prior to works starting onsite. Also, why not think about upgrading to one of the higher end finishes like Exposed Aggregate or Stamped Concrete. There will never be a better and more cost effective time than while the existing surface is excavated. Have a talk to one of our team or drop by our website www.affordableconcrete.co.nz to see the full range of finishes available.

STAMPED CONCRETE

Stamped or imprinted concrete has been a popular finish since the 1970s. With the large selection of colours and the growing catalogue of patterns and textures to choose from, there is a look to suit all projects.

Stamped concrete is the process of colouring freshly laid concrete, then when the concrete is at the appropriate stage of hardening, a powder or liquid release agent, is applied to the surface of the concrete. It is then "stamped" using a textured and or patterned mold, which is chosen by you before work has begun. In the following days, once the concrete has hardened, one of our team will return and wash off excess release agent. The concrete is then sealed to protect and also enhance the appearance of the new concrete.

Things to remember with Stamped Concrete:

- » It does cost more than other finishes due to the extra labour and higher cost of products involved.
- » It does require slightly more maintenance than other finishes. Because it has the release powder on the surface, this needs to be protected by the sealer to stop the colour wearing out. On driveways, this needs to be repeated every 1-3 years depending on the amount of traffic.

WHAT DOES A SEALER DO TO THE APPEARANCE OF THE CONCRETE?

When the concrete is first sealed it gives the concrete a wet glossy look. The sealer deepens the colour in the concrete giving it a vibrant look. We choose to use an acrylic solvent based sealer because it is hard wearing and is a lot easier to give a new coat to every 1-3 years depending on the amount and type of traffic.

PLEASE NOTE that plain concrete is generally not sealed and coloured concrete is optional.

PROGRAMME OF WORKS

1 QUOTE ACCEPTED

Once you have selected your finishes, read and understood all terms and conditions and accepted and finalised your quotation, our team will program your job into start. In most cases this will be in 2 or 3 weeks time from the time the quote is accepted. We will usually give you an approximate window of about a week as start dates may need to be adjusted because of potential hold ups on jobs prior to yours starting.

» For insurance works, all excesses must be paid at this stage otherwise we cannot continue past this stage.

2 CONTACT

Your project manager will contact you to arrange a time to meet up with you.

3 SITE MEETING/PRE-START

A site meeting with you (the owner) to discuss the works and any safety issues. Any questions you have regarding the job and anything in this booklet should be raised at this point.

4 ANY CONCERNS?

Discuss any concerns you may have. Any areas that you are aware of that may have underground services or anything that could be potentially damaged. The project manager can make a note of these and mark out for his team to be wary of.

5 FINISHES

Please research at this stage. What help us the most are photos and examples of jobs. If you have seen something you like, email us an image or even better, visit Our Decorative Display on the corner of Spencerville and Marshland or Permacolour at 25a Sheffield Crescent in Bryndwr.

PRIOR TO WORKS STARTING ONSITE

6 PLANTS

If you have any plants that may have sentimental value that could be potentially damaged, please remove them at this stage to put back once works are complete. (See section on plants).

7 SHEDS, PLANTER BOXES, WOODPILES & OTHER BITS & PIECES

Any of these, which are on the areas to be excavated, need to be removed by the owner prior to works starting. If there are issues regarding this, bring it up with your Project Manager. In most cases, sheds can be cut around. Some sheds are installed and built on un-level ground so when the concrete is re-laid level, the shed can potentially not sit right and doors etc. may not close properly. Once again, discuss with the Project Manager.

8 SITE SET OUT

Our Project Manager will go through the project and set out ready for the rest of the team. Any subcontractors will also be organised to start works. Safety hazard signs and barricade the work area from the public.

START OF WORKS ON SITE

Some very loud noise is to be expected at this point!

9 SAW CUTTING

Before the excavation works start, our concrete cutter will cut the concrete in areas that can potentially damage fencing, brickwork or anything that butts up against the existing hard surface that we can see. This will usually happen a day or so before the main works start depending on our scheduling.

10 MACHINE & HAND EXCAVATION

At this time we will need:

- » Access to power onsite. We will need to run a jackhammer and hand tools. We can provide an extension lead to poke out a window or maybe there is a power point in your garage. Whatever suits you.
- » The garage door left open. When excavating the concrete next to your garage, there is a very high risk that the garage door will be scraped. We have learnt this the hard way unfortunately. Please discuss this with your Project Manager if this is an issue.
- » Pets put away. Excavators and jackhammers can be a bit distressing for pets. When the concrete is being lifted and broken up by the machinery it can rumble the ground. Once the works are completed for the day, the pets will be free to roam around as usual.
- » Cars out of garage and parked down the road. Please remove any vehicles from your garage. If possible, please park down the road so that we can have our trucks etc. out front to place debris in.
- » Any hard surfaces will be excavated by way of machinery (excavator or skid steer loader) and areas with limited space will be removed by hand (jackhammer).
- » This is where the works really kick in. There will potentially be many of our team working onsite at this time. Hand demolition is back breaking labour. Many hands really do make light work.

11 FORMWORK (BOXING)

The excavated works will be formed, ready to be based up. Pegs will be protruding at the sides of your formwork so **BE CAREFUL!** Any drainage will be installed at this stage also.

12 SUBGRADE

A layer of compactable fill (AP 40 or AP 20) will be placed and then compacted ready for your new surface to be installed.

13 CONCRETE PLACEMENT

This is installed usually within a few days of the job being boxed and sub graded. The guys will do their best to give you, as much notice as possible but sometimes this may be very short notice. The reason being is that your concrete needs to be placed in pretty good weather. We may only have small window to get the concrete placed.

On the day of concrete placement:

- » Please have any pets away and possibly let your neighbours know to keep their pets away on the day of placement. When our staff leave site at the end of the day, your concrete will still be very green. Cats or dog prints could leave marks.
- » Cars left out on the road side.
- » Garage door left open to avoid concrete splashes and so that the concrete can be finished tidy along edge of garage.
- » Tooled control joints are installed at stress points to induce cracks until concrete is cut with concrete saw in a couple of days.
- » Concrete washout. Our staff will need somewhere to wash their tools, wheelbarrows and somewhere to put excess concrete. This cannot be washed down the drains. We will dig a small hole somewhere in the garden to wash into. Please don't be alarmed! When the final clean up is done onsite, our team will remove the concrete and slurry and tidy up the garden again.

Concrete can be walked on by foot the day after concrete placing. Please do your best to not scuff the surface, as the concrete is still quite green and can be marked. Please keep any larger pets off for a few more days if possible.

Also, please note: for the rest of the project, these stages should happen one day after another (dependant on weather). These team members will drop by and carry on with these stages generally unannounced. Please do not be surprised when they drop by to complete the next stage.

14 WATER BLASTING

With some finishes including exposed aggregate, the surface is water blasted to reveal the aggregates. Please do appreciate, this is a messy job and it is expected to get some concrete dust on plants and lawns etc. The team members doing the water blasting start early in most cases. The reason for this is that the concrete is far softer and easier to expose the shorter the amount of time it is left without exposure. Our team does their absolute best to try to minimise this.

- » This happens always the day after concrete is poured with exposed aggregate.

15 FORMWORK/BOXING REMOVAL

Pegs are removed, boxing is stripped and taken away. An initial tidying up takes place.

16 CONCRETE SAW CUTTING

Expansion cuts will be installed by way of concrete saw similar to the "Concrete Jointing Plan".

- » This stage is very noisy!

17 CLEAN UP OF CONCRETE – ACID WASHING

With decorative concrete finishes, the surface is cleaned ready for the concrete to be sealed. With exposed aggregate finishes, the surface is cleaned and etched with a hydrochloric acid wash.

- » Please keep the surface clean at this stage. The concrete needs to be bone dry and clean to be sealed.

18 CONCRETE SEALING – FOR DECORATIVE CONCRETE FINISHES

Once the concrete is bone dry, the concrete is then sealed with 2 coats of a high build acrylic sealer. This seals off the pores of the concrete and provides hardwearing protection for your new concrete surface. Keep off until the next day.

19 SUBCONTRACTORS, PAVING & OR ASPHALT

Any paving will be done usually at this stage. Asphalt will be laid on any asphalt driveways. Any special works should now be completed at this stage.

20 SITE CLEAN UP AND BACK FILLING OF EDGES WITH TOP SOIL

A thorough clean up of the work site is completed. Any garden edges or lawn edges are backfilled with topsoil.

21 YOU CAN HAVE YOUR HOME BACK!

The site will be handed back to you. Any parking areas will be able to be driven on by the agreed date discussed with the Project Manager. Any questions please contact the office on **03 3542 140**.

PLEASE NOTE At this stage your property does become a work site. In order to get yours and other projects completed promptly, our team members will juggle the area that your job is situated in conjunction with others and also the weather to complete various stages. Therefore, our team may drop in at short notice to keep the work moving forward. We try not to miss any opportunities to keep the job progressing. Our Project Managers will try to keep you informed as much as possible but please do not be alarmed if our team members are in and out throughout the duration of the project.

COMMON ISSUES & FAQ'S ASSOCIATED WITH WORKS ONSITE

WORKERS ONSITE

Starting times are between 7–8am through to 5pm. 7am–5pm on Saturdays.

The complete process can take 7-20 days depending on weather conditions. As per the program of works above, between the boxing stage and pouring there can be a delay with weather.

During the 7–20 day period, any other works will be started involving other trades including, fencing, block work or carpentry. As with all tradespeople in Christchurch, they are very busy. We can sometimes be held up which can stretch out the time frame slightly.

Our staff will do their best to alert you as to when there will be staff arriving onsite. As there are up to 12 different teams plus subcontractors involved in the whole process, one of the team members may have to drop in unannounced. For example, when we seal any concrete, it needs to be bone dry and a fine day. We may have a backlog of jobs that we have get sealed in a short time frame. Therefore our sealing team tries to cover as many jobs within these windows. They will always knock and announce their arrival. If you have any major concerns with this please let us know and we will do our best to address your needs.

CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGE

Demolition and the removal of concrete require some pretty serious equipment. Our teams are very experienced and take all due care but sometimes some damage may occur which is completely unintentional. Please see the terms and conditions regarding consequential damage.

CRACKS IN NEW CONCRETE

Please see section on **Concrete Cracks**.

NOISY BUGGERS!

Concrete Saws, Jackhammers, Plate Compactors, Excavators, Bobcats, Hammer Drills, Concrete Trucks, Water Blasters. They are all very noisy. Please be tolerant, as they are all needed to complete the job. Some of this equipment may cause vibrations too.

DRAINAGE

Because of the need for water run off from your hard surfaces. We may need to add small gaps along fence lines at our discretion. In a lot of cases, some areas may not have had a garden before but may need it now.

Many areas that may have had the rainwater run out through cracks etc. in the concrete will now be sealed by the new concrete surface so drainage becomes a very high priority. Nobody likes puddles in their concrete!

REINFORCING

If steel mesh has been opted for it will be added to the concrete areas and may need to be installed days before the concrete is placed. We will endeavor to keep it set aside until it is laid but sometimes it needs to be inspected in place beforehand.

CONCRETE SEALER

Has a very strong odour but fades very quickly. Concrete should be resealed every 1–3 years. When your decorative concrete (exposed aggregate, stamped concrete, coloured concrete) is installed, an acrylic sealer is applied to the surface. We recommend that you do not clean your newly sealed surface for approximately 4 weeks. This gives the sealer time to reach its maximum strength. If oil is spilt on the surface it should be cleaned up as quick as possible. Once 4 weeks are up it is fine to clean your surface. It is fine to use a pressure washer as long as you use a wide fan.

Why do we seal concrete? Well, it is done for a number of reasons:

- » It seals the pores of the concrete and provides a barrier to prevent dirt, grease and mould from staining the concrete surface
- » It creates a very hardwearing surface
- » Provides good UV protection for colored concrete surfaces
- » Help with the curing process
- » It brings out the colours in the concrete oxides
- » It seals off any minor cracks that may have formed preventing dirt and moisture from entering the cracks. This will help prevent spalling over time
- » It gives the concrete a wet look

The concrete sealer does unfortunately break down over time. This is due to a number of factors with traffic and the sun being the two main culprits. To prevent the surface underneath the sealer being damaged, a new coat of this sealer should be applied every one to three years depending on the amount of traffic the area receives. It is usually very noticeable when it is time to reseat the concrete, as it will start to lose its sheen.

Give us a call when you feel it is time for advice on resealing options.

MAINTAINING YOUR NEW CONCRETE SURFACE

CONCRETE SEALER BUBBLING

New concrete sealer may bubble in a pinhole like effect. This is generally due to certain weather conditions and is much more apparent in the warmer months. The higher ambient heat causes the solvents in the sealer to evaporate too fast resulting in little bubbles in the sealer. There is no cause for alarm. These bubbles will rub off with traffic. In extreme cases another coat of sealer can be applied.

WHITE SEALER

If the concrete is not 100% dry, the sealer can turn a milky white colour. This will generally happen along joint lines and is a much more common occurrence in winter. It is an easy fix. A solvent wash will reactivate the sealer letting moisture to escape, leaving the sealer clear again.

- » Some projects installed in winter in areas that do not get any sun will need to be sealed in the warmer months. In these instances, all other work is completed on site. The invoice is paid but a retainer is held by the client (usually 10% of the total cost). The company will then return in the warmer months to seal the concrete. The balance is then paid.

STONES POPPED OUT

More so with exposed aggregate. Over time you will lose some of the stones out of surface. These are usually the fine stones in the surface and no cause for alarm. This is more common on driveways where tyres will wear some stones out. This is to be expected. Because these small stones take some of the sealer with them they will leave small white spots. This is because there is no sealer in those spots. When you reseal your concrete, these white spots will be sealed again hiding these spots.

CONCRETE MESS IN GARDEN

See item **number 13**.

CHANGES TO YOUR NEW AREAS BEING INSTALLED

There will never be a better time to extend that small driveway, make that entertaining area bigger and more practical or get rid of that ugly pattern that you have hated for years! There are a number of finishes to choose from. Please feel free to have a look through our website www.affordableconcrete.co.nz, visit our display yard at the corner of Spencerville and Marshland Rd.

Have a talk to one of our staff or send us an email at sales@affordableconcrete.co.nz to discuss.

Because of concrete's natural inherent strength, your new concrete surface should provide you with decades of service. But even though the surface is very hard wearing it is still not without maintenance. This is especially so with decorative concrete surfaces.

Here are some tips for maintaining your new surface:

» Remove stains immediately

Although a sealer helps protect your surface from stains absorbing into it, it's still a good idea to remove oil, petrol or diesel as soon as possible. Using a pressure washer and an alkaline based degreaser or detergent to remove the stains. Be careful not to wash into sumps or the council stormwater system.

» Rust stains

Be wary of furniture or ornaments that are stored on your new concrete. Once it soaks into unsealed concrete it is very hard to remove. On sealed surface it can be removed with some products available from hardware stores.

» Scraping your surface

Be careful not to scrape your new surface with sharp objects. These include shovels while gardening or even table and chair legs on your patio area. We recommend having rubbing feet attached to the bottoms of tables and chairs to avoid damage over time.

» Tyre marks

Avoid screwing your tyres on your concrete especially on hot days. This can leave black tyre marks on the surface which can be a quite a job to get off.

» Keep it clean!

Take a bit of time to clean your surface periodically with a pressure washer or a solution of detergent and water. With regular sealing every few years your concrete will keep that new look for decades.

» Any more questions?

Please do give us a call or even better, send us an email. With email we can keep a track of all correspondence with ease and can pass on any relevant info at the click of a button.

THANK YOU

We thank you for letting us onto your property to complete these works and will aim to treat it with the utmost respect. We will strive to provide you with a smooth hassle free service that will cause as little disruption to your home as we possibly can.

Referrals have always been the lifeblood of our company and good word travels fast. If you have a family member or friend whom could require our services, your recommendation would be much appreciated.



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