

## Do's and Don'ts of Colored Concrete

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Use a qualified decorative concrete contractor with experience in integrally-colored concrete.
- Use a mix design suitable for your specific application.
- A test pour is highly recommended to make sure the results will meet your expectations.
- Make sure that every truck contains the same number of metres/yards of concrete.
- Make sure that the concrete is an even thickness throughout.
- Finish all surfaces within the same timeframe after placing.
- Be sure the concrete is finished in the same direction when troweling.
- Make sure that the concrete cures evenly and consistently.
- Make sure all areas dry at the same rate to avoid differences in color.
- NEVER add water to the surface.
- Keep in mind that concrete poured in shaded areas will be a different temperature than concrete poured in unshaded areas. This may result in color variations.
- Allow the concrete to dry fully prior to application of sealer (approximately 30 days).

### AVOID

- Don't pour concrete when the weather conditions are unfavorable.
- Don't pour concrete when the temperature is below 50 °F (10 °C).
- NEVER ADD WATER to the ready mix truck on site. NEVER.
- Don't use fly-ash or slag in the mix design. It will affect the color.
- Avoid projects that require several small pours.
- Avoid pouring on different days.
- Don't finish with long-handled Fresno trowels.
- Don't use dirty or wet tools.
- Don't over-finish because this may darken the surface.
- Don't fog the surface with water.
- Don't use wet coverings, plastic sheeting, water-proof paper, or liquid membrane curing compounds.