



Do's and Don'ts of Colored Concrete

	Do's	Don'ts
Weather	1. Look at the weather forecast to ensure no rain or inclement weather for the next 24 hours.	1. Don't pour colored concrete if rain or other inclement weather is forecasted for the next 24 hrs.
	2. Use Hot Water and Non Chloride Accelerator for cold weather conditions.	2. Don't use calcium chloride this will cause discoloration of concrete.
Subgrade	1. Place Concrete on a well-drained, damp subgrade that has adequate and uniform load-bearing characteristics.	1. Don't place concrete on a subgrade that is not thoroughly compacted and dampened.
	2. Grade the subgrade so that the concrete is of uniform thickness and properly sloped for drainage.	2. Don't place concrete over freestanding water or muddy, frozen, or soft spots.
Concrete Installation	1. Adjust slump prior to pouring out concrete.	1. Do not add additional water to the load after pouring out part of the load
	2. Pour each load at the same slump to provide uniform color.	2. Don't allow the slump to vary from load to load. Control the mix for good uniformity.
	3. Consolidate well and spade the concrete adjacent to the forms. Tap the forms to consolidate the edges.	3. Don't over-vibrate causing aggregate to the bottom and all the paste to the top.
Finishing	1. An easy way to uniform color is to skip troweling: just float and broom or use swirl finish. Follow with effective curing.	1. Don't sprinkle or otherwise add water to the surface during finishing.
	2. To reduce discoloration, use wood bull floats and darbies, not magnesium.	2. Don't fog the colored concrete with water or add water to tools or brooms. Adding water causes the surface to pale or discolor.
	3. Wait for bleed water "sheen" to disappear before troweling	3. Don't over trowel or start troweling late. This leads to burns and dark spots.
	4. Finish all surfaces within reasonably the same time after placing.	4. Don't use inconsistent finishing practices.
Curing	1. After final finishing spray a curing/sealing compound on the surface.	1. Under no circumstances cover the surface with poly or any other material.
	2. To provide a long lasting finish seal the color concrete periodically.	2. Water will condensate under the poly or other covering material and cause discoloration.