

COHILLS® CONCRETE STAMPING TOOLS

Instructions for use:

Sub Grade:

The sub-grade should be well drained and have adequate and uniform load bearing characteristics. It must be moist, completely consolidated, and free of frost at the time of concreting. If necessary, it should be dampened with water in advance of concreting, but there must be no free-standing water on the sub-grade nor should there be any muddy or soft spots when the concrete is placed. It is recommended that a crusher base or construction sand base be used over the natural soil to facilitate uniform drainage through the underlayment.

Concrete Mix Design:

We recommend using a 6 sack mix with ½" rock. The water content should be the minimum practicable and the slump should not exceed four inches. A retarded-set water reducing admixture should be used, but the concrete must not contain any other admixture such as Calcium Chloride or waterproofing additives that contain Calcium. All air-entraining admixture should be used in all concrete that will be subject to freeze-thaw cycles or when required by the engineer. Since textured concrete has all the basic design characteristics of ordinary concrete, reinforcing wire or reinforcing bar may be specified. Concrete should be 4" or greater in thickness.

Layout & Design:

If possible, design the work so as to have the long lines of a given pattern running across the line of sight. This will reduce straight line error, and provide a more pleasant appearance to the work. Establish a reference line. This may be accomplished with the use of a taught line squared with a prominent feature or other reference. Texturing is generally run in straight lines, even when walks or drives are curved. An inexperienced individual should not attempt to stamp more than 100 square feet per pour per tool, with a limit of 400 square feet.

Placing Concrete:

Prior to placing concrete, surrounding surfaces and walls should be protected to prevent discoloration and to facilitate clean up. Concrete mix control should be such as to provide good batch-to-batch uniformity. After placing, the concrete should be vibrated or lightly tamped and then wood floated to an even surface that corresponds to the finished grade of plus or minus 1/8" in ten feet in any direction. When concrete is placed and finished in hot or windy weather, precautions must be taken to prevent plastic cracking resulting from excessively rapid drying at the surface.

Coloring:

The **Dust-on** Method of coloring concrete is the most widely used when texturing and a color hardener should be used, although integral colored concrete is acceptable and preferable in hot weather. After the concrete has reached a point when little excess moisture shows at the surface, but while still plastic throughout, the color hardener is applied evenly to the surface by the dry shake method. Water must not be sprinkled or otherwise added to the surface during application or finishing. The necessary moisture must come from the concrete in order to assure adequate density for the color hardener surface. The first shake should consume two thirds of the material, one third being withheld for the second shake and final touch up. After the first shake, the surface is thoroughly floated. It should not be troweled between the first and second shakes. The second shake is then applied evenly and the surface floated and troweled. A small quantity of color hardener should be withheld from the second shake for touching up non-uniform or weak tone areas as necessary.

Texturing:

Using a reference line, begin placing the mats along the reference line moving in any convenient direction. Proper pre-planning and placement of the reference line should enable the work to be completed evenly and expeditiously with a minimum of handwork. At the concrete's optimum degree of set for texturing, great force should not be necessary to press the mat into the wet concrete. Since time is of the utmost importance in texturing, texturing should begin without delay. Handwork, where necessary, should also commence as soon as possible. Inspect the work for areas that require deepening of the impression or any imperfections that may require correction. This step is performed using **COHILLS[®]** small mat tools, flopies and skins, which are companion items to the main tool. The hand tools should always be kept for immediate use at the job site. As the concrete approaches its optimum set for starting the texturing process, begin by broadcasting your RELEASE AGENT onto the surface of the concrete using a fanlike motion from left to right just ahead of where you plan to place the first mat. (NOTE: RELEASE AGENTS are made expressly for texture mat work and must be used. Texturing concrete will not work without the use of this product.) The parting agents should be applied in a thin, even coat, but thick enough to prevent the damp concrete from bleeding through the mat. Place the first mat in position on the concrete using the pre-established reference line. Using a tamper, press the mat straight down into the concrete using no more force than is necessary to press the mat flush to the concrete. Repeat the process by placing the second mat next to the first mat while taking care that the mats are kept tight together until firmly in place. Repeat the process using as many mats as are on hand. Continue by picking up and re-placing previously placed mats. Upon completion of the texturing process, recheck your work and do any touch-up work that may be necessary. The textured concrete should then be left to set for at least three days. At the end of this period, the excess parting agent should be washed off the surface of the concrete. Approximately 15-20% of the colored RELEASE AGENT will adhere to the concrete. After the excess release agent has been washed away, and the concrete is thoroughly dry, we recommend a good quality sealer such as Cohills[®] Clear Seal or Cohills[®] Clear Seal HS. Ask your Cohills representative which sealer would be right for your project.

Tip:

For best results, it is recommended that you use 8 to 10 stamping tools. For proper alignment, there should be enough tools to span the width of the job plus 2 more tools to begin the second row.

NOTE: Dust masks must be worn when using powdered parting agents.

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Cohills Stamping Tools available through: