



Barrier

Release Agent

- An Overview

ARMCON
CERTAINTY: IN CONCRETE



Barrier Concrete Release Agent:

Top Tips:

- In the most part do not use of any plastic moulds
- Use a good quality sprayer to ensure a fine spray
- Good on steel moulds and very hard wearing surfaces
- Use if a good finish is not essential

Overview:

Release agents, known also as form oils, mould oils, demoulding agent, parting agent, releasers etc are used in the concrete industry, these oils vary greatly and the type of mould oil will often help towards defining the finish, ease of demould ensuring health and safety in a factory as well as nature being cared for.

There are really only 2 types of release agent that are widely used in the precast concrete industry. One is a chemically reactive release agent while the other is a barrier release agent.

A barrier Release agent is a passive release agent and works much like butter in a cake tin, it ensures you can demould the concrete because it has created a slippery surface in which the concrete can be lifted out of. (See our other booklet on Barrier Release Agent for more information.

A Chemical Release Agent not only acts like butter in a cake tin, it also has an active ingredient that reacts to the concrete to allow for an easier demould. Depending on the oil it is generally the safer and better option, usually ensuring a much better finish, whilst using a lot less product and ensuring health and safety rules are achieved.



Barrier Agent:

This release agent can be as basic as used car oil, diesel,

washing up liquid.

Advantages of a Barrier Agent:

- Cheap to buy in bulk (but not in the long run)
- Ensures an easy demould

Barrier agent is basically anything that will allow the concrete to come out of the mould as easily as possible— even chemical release agents have an element of barrier release its important to ensure easy demould.

However the problems with simply a barrier release is that they do not account for quality of the finished product or mould care.

A barrier agent that has solvents (which a lot do) such as diesel will melt plastic moulds.

They are much more likely to leave blow holes (or bug holes) in the concrete and produce a generally inferior product due to the large particle size of the release agent.

Barrier Release is okay to use if you don't mind how the finish looks, the mould, if you can get the oil free or extremely cheap. In the long run the chemical release agent is almost always the best option.

Barrier Release is generally a 'dirty product' this means bad news for health and safety as well as