



# Blemish Free Concrete

*– Pointers*

**ARMCON**  
CERTAINTY: IN CONCRETE

## How to: Blemish Free Concrete

To achieve a blemish free product make your life easier by using the right materials, use the correct release agents, aggregates, and admixtures in the right proportions.

Blemishes can range from stains on your concrete, to

The points to look at when producing concrete are:

- Aggregates – Use a good clean aggregate, that is free of contaminants. If looking to produce a smooth finish then use a smooth aggregate. Also use a dust free aggregate if possible (this will also save you cement.
- Water – Make sure you are using the correct amount, if water sits on top of the concrete when it is setting; you've probably added too much, this in turn can create blemishes and weaken concrete against frost.
- Admixtures – Use a plasticiser to reduce the amount of water needed and to ensure an equal colour
- Curing – Allow the concrete to cure correctly, so protected from the elements, and with enough time
- Vibration – Use a good table or poker to vibrate all the excess air out of the concrete, over vibration is better than under vibration – under vibration is one of the primary causes for blemishing in concrete
- Consistency – Ensure a consistent mix, to ensure no changes in colour down to changes in the mix
- Mould cleanliness – Ensure your mould is clean and free of any muck or general debris
- Mould type – If your mould has a negative taper, then a different type of vibrating is necessary. For example if you are producing a sphere mould, make sure to add extra vibration and turn the mould around to help the air escape
- For how to reduce lime bloom have a look at our Reduce lime bloom booklet.
- If using colour then make sure to mix the concrete thoroughly and to add the pigment at the right time – with powdered pigment this is when the cement is added