ARMCON

Chemically Reactive Release Agent

– CRA an Overview

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CPA
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Chemically Reactive Concrete Release Agent (CRA):

Top Tips:

- **When spraying the mould if it drips you have applied too much**
- **Use a fan spray tip for your sprayer**
- **Use a good quality sprayer to ensure a fine spray**
- **On plastic moulds do not use diesels or solvents**

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, whist using a lot less product and ensuring health and safety rules are achieved.

CRA: Chemical Release Agent:

CRA3 contains ingredients which react with the concrete fat and produce a soap which remains as a dust on the mould after stripping. Simply brush off this dust and reapply the CRA3 before casting again.
CRA3 can be used repeatedly on virtually any type of mould and will not cause damage to the mould (check latex compatibility).

Advantages of CRA3:

- Very low application rate
- Compatible with all common mould materials
- Non hazardous
- Ease of mould cleaning
- Increases mould life

CRA3 release agent should be applied in a very light film. A common fault is using too much or repeat applications, this is wasteful and can have a negative effect on the finished concrete surface. Spraying is the best application method and it is essential to have the correct nozzle and pressure to achieve the very fine mist required. The correct nozzle will reduce usage and ensure a fine light film on the mould. If the release agent runs after application you are using too much, it should just “glisten” on the mould surface.

CRA3 is also ideal for protecting your mixing equipment and a weekly application will ensure any concrete build up is easily removed protecting your investment and maintaining a smart appearance.

The CRA3 is made to save money; this is because the large coverage rate of 60M2 means only a small amount is needed per mould.