



# Release Agent

*– How to apply less*

**ARMCON**  
CERTAINTY: IN CONCRETE

## **How to apply less Release Agent:**

### **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**
- **Do not 'Rag' or paint the oil on**
- **Use in a 'still' environment**

### **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.

### **So how much should I apply?**

Depending on the type of release agent that is applied really dictates on how much or little release agent is applied.

If it's a good release agent then a small layer of releasing agent will do. In fact they should have:

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

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.



Ideally use a mechanical sprayer, if you cannot, then ensure you use a sprayer that has the ability to produce a highly atomised spray – meaning it can produce a very fine mist.

Do not use a garden sprayer, this will use up too much oil – costing you extra money and possibly staining your concrete.