



How to find a good concrete supplier

– when ordering in



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Think about your mix

Once you choose a ready mix supplier, you will need to communicate your performance requirements for the concrete. The supplier can then work with you to provide a mix that will achieve the desired results.

Your supplier also needs to know the anticipated exposure and service conditions of the concrete once it has been delivered so that he can supply you with a material strong enough for the application and advise you on admixtures to use to enhance concrete performance, such as water reducers and air entrainers.

Other ingredients you might want to include in your mix recipe include fibres, colour pigments, decorative aggregates, or admixtures.

Understand mix design basics

You should know the basics of concrete mix design so if your supplier gets the formula wrong, you will at least have a basic understanding of how the components in a mix interact so you can help troubleshoot the problem. In some cases, even slight modifications can make a big difference in how the concrete performs.

Figure out how much concrete you require

Once you work with your supplier to come up with the best mix for your application, the next step is to order the right amount. Buying too much concrete is not only a waste of money, but also necessitates finding an environmentally safe way to dispose of the excess. If you're too conservative with your estimate and don't buy enough concrete, you'll be forced to put the project on hold until an emergency delivery arrives.

Volumetric concrete suppliers are able to supply smaller amounts of concrete as they can produce fresh concrete on site to the quantity required. This takes away any waste issues.

Plan ahead to ensure timely delivery

Ask the ready mix supplier how many days of lead time are necessary for an order and whether the concrete can be delivered at the time of day you want it. Giving your supplier ample notice will help to ensure priority service and on-time delivery. For additional reassurance, be sure to confirm your order the day before the pour.

Find a readymix supplier

Once you have armed yourself with a good plan and a set budget it's time to find a contractor. Directories and website will advise you of readymix suppliers in your area.

A readymix supplier's reputation among former clients is the best gauge their work. It's also a good idea to look at the work a supplier has done for previous clients. If they have a website where you can look at projects they have completed. It would be an idea to gather references, a professional supplier will be happy to volunteer this information. Call referees directly see if they would use the supplier again.

Use a local supplier to save hauling costs

You will generally pay higher transportation costs the farther the ready mix plant is from your work site. But that's not the only reason to go local, whenever possible. The further the truck has to travel, the greater the chance of it arriving late to the job.

If you're on a remote jobsite or prefer to use a supplier across town, avoid scheduling deliveries during rush hour and recommend alternate routes in case of road construction or traffic congestion.

Ensure you get what you pay for

All the materials in a mix will contribute to the characteristics of the concrete that arrives at your jobsite. Some qualities, such as workability and ease of finishing, are readily apparent as you place the concrete. But others, such as compressive strength and air content, can't be observed. That's why onsite testing of the delivered concrete is important. These tests will assure you that the material you ordered is the same material that arrives in the truck.

Slump (a measure of consistency), air content, unit weight, and compressive strength tests are the most common field tests for determining the quality of freshly mixed concrete.



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