

ARMCON

10 Ways to Reduce Breakages when Transporting Concrete Products

– In a Precast Works

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CERTAINTY: IN CONCRETE

Transporting concrete it is always challenging, specially when you are looking at moving something like a post or panel. These long products mixed in with the movement of a van or flatbed can be a real disaster waiting to happen.

Unless that is you take the following steps – these don't guarantee that you won't get a breakage every now and then but it should help to greatly reduce them.

1. Make sure that the concrete mix you are using is strong.

If you're getting lots of breakages before you have even loaded it, then you need to alter your mix – remember that you want to ensure that you use the least amount of cement possible whilst achieving the best strength. Use admixtures such as a plasticiser to ensure you can use a smaller amount of cement but achieve the same strength (by reducing your water) have a look at our other books for information.

2. Make sure that none of the concrete is touching each other.

There is nothing worst than transporting concrete that touches each other, the concrete can rub against each other causing scratched or chips, even worst it can really damage the concrete. Use wood to separate the concrete as well as plastic wrapping the concrete to keep it steady.

3. Calm down – drive carefully.

How is your driver driving? Make sure to drive carefully when transporting concrete. It's a heavy, relatively delicate product. SO calm down and drive carefully.

4. Make sure the pallet that they are sat on is in good condition.

Using a poor quality pallet can end up in the concrete shaking or moving whilst in transit, or even worst, it breaking. So make sure to use a good quality pallet.

5. Separate them using the wood not only on top of each other but side to side too.

Ensure that there is no way that the concrete can touch each other, think sideways protection as well as vertical!

6. Protect the corners using cardboard, or wood.

The corners on any pallet load of concrete always seem to get damages if not stacked correctly or well protected. So protect those corners using cardboard or wood.

7. Monitor

Monitor the whole process from when the concrete is made to when it gets moved onto the flat bed/truck to when it is transported and unloaded and put in place. Write every step down and then think about how you can improve it.

8. Check all your goods to ensure they are in good condition before they leave.

This is key to ensuring you are doing everything right on your end. Send broken goods or chipped goods and you'll likely have to have them back, So set up a check list so that all your goods going out get checked over before leaving.

9. Make sure that there are enough people to unload the posts when they arrive on site.

Safe unloading is vital; if your men are responsible for downloading the goods then make sure that they are trained in proper loading and unloading techniques. Too many times goods have to be returned due to bad handling.

10. When demoulding, do so 'delicately'....

Use tires or a 'soft' material, when demoulding a post for example. It can sometimes mean the difference between having a perfect post and a chipped one. – Again this one is a nip it in the bud technique.