



# Setting up a Precast Yard

*- What to Consider.*

**ARMCON**  
CERTAINTY. IN CONCRETE

## What will I need?

Precast yards depending on their size and the production capabilities need a variety of products.

First of all, ask yourself what is it that I want to produce?

The precast industry has a huge range of different products, and deciding which one is suitable for your market is an important question to ask before considering all the options.

Precast concrete can mean ornamental (gnomes etc) or paving, fencing, bridges, architectural concrete etc.

Once you have decided on the products that you want to produce, say fencing or paving as these are a staple of the precast world, then you need to work out how you are going to produce these.

For this you need to take into consideration:

- Space
- Moulds
- Mix
- Machinery
- Men
- Review

**Space:** Do you have the space needed to set up your precast works? I've known huge sites that are the size of 10 football pitches, and I've know yards that would fit in your front room.

The key things to consider when choosing a yard is;

Will you fit all your machinery, moulds and you need in your yard, and will you be able to store your products.

Will you have space to let your moulds cure properly and will you have space to fill your moulds and demould them

**Moulds:** What are you producing? Decide on the products that you want to produce based on doing detailed market research – which product is going to make you the most money, as well as which products suit your production capabilities. If your one man alone maybe think about paving to start with (as an example).

**Mix:** This one is a very important factor when precasting. Always remember that cement is the most expensive material in your concrete, this means that you want to save as much as possible. As such use admixtures and the right cement (52N in most cases). Finish is so important so make sure that you use the

correct materials. Use the right material for the job. For example don't use a builders sand. Use the right materials. In the long term they will save you money.

**Machinery:** Use the right tools for the job. Ensuring you buy the best that you can afford such as the right vibrating table can make all the difference, it can ensure that you have the least amount of breakages possible, or that your concrete is of an excellent. The right mixer is key to ensuring you produce a good quality of concrete and that you do not waste cement.

**Men:** Last of all Men. Make sure you have a good workforce that are well trained and know their stuff. People work in the concrete/building industry for years and think they know all the tricks, well its your job to know what's right and wrong when it comes to precasting. If you get it wrong then it can cost you big. So if you have any questions ask.

**Review:** After all is said and done, review all of these points over again every few months/weeks/days and check that you are as efficient and productive as possible.