

## Hot Weather Concrete Tips

**JOBSITE  
SUPPLY**

CONSTRUCTION IDEAS AT WORK

### Hot or Windy Days:

These conditions can cause the surface of the slab to dry out too quickly. When this happens while stamping, the surface sets up while the concrete below is soft. The outcome is usually shrinkage cracks all over the surface. **Fritz Pak Control Finish** is a solution to this common problem. These are packaged in water soluble bags that you simply mix with 3 gallons of water in your spray can. Spray it on the surface to help bring the cement cream back up to the surface. This makes floating and troweling much easier. **Fritz Pak Control Finish** is safe for decorative concrete because it will not discolor the surface. **Don't use water as a finishing aid for decorative concrete!** It is a good idea to have a sprayer with this solution on hand as a finishing aid for both gray concrete and decorative concrete. Once the solution is mixed, it is good for about 3 days.

### Planning:

Visualize the finished job. Building the job mentally helps work through the various steps and considerations to deliver what the customer expects. Try to schedule morning pours to avoid the after-noon heat.

### Mix Design:

Work with your ready mix provider for the appropriate mix. The color difference between a fly ash mix and a Portland mix is negligible; just keep your mix design and substrate conditions consistent throughout the job and your colors will follow. Consider using the largest rock you can justify for the texture, usually 3/4-inch or 1-inch. Avoid chip mixes because of the higher water- to-cement ratios, which can result in more shrinkage. Retarders ordered from the plant are partially used up by the time the load hits the jobsite. **Fritz Pak Mini Delay Set** are added to the truck at the jobsite. This gives the contractor more control in slowing down the mix. Like most **Fritz Pak** products they come in water soluble bags. One bag of **Fritz Pak Mini Delay Set** will slow the set time of one yard of concrete by one hour. This product has helped create a very useful technique for stamped concrete called step retardation. For example, suppose you were pouring a 9 yard pour that was going to be stamped. You want to give your crew more time to finish stamping the slab. If you wanted to slow the set time of the last 4 yards, you would do the following. First you would mark your forms at 5 yards and pour out the first 5 yards from the ready mix truck. Then you throw in 4 of the **Fritz Pak Mini Delay Set** bags into the truck and let them mix for approximately 5 minutes before pouring the final 4 yards. Now the last 4 yards of the job will set an hour slower than the first half, giving your crew more time to get a good stamp texture.

### Tools:

The wood bull float lets the water get all the way to the top and keeps the surface more elastic. A magnesium bull float and Fresno can seal the top and cause "crazing." Use a wood bull float for the first two passes and a magnesium bull float and Fresno later in the process to avoid this problem. The wood bull float is especially important with color hardener as it encourages more water to rise and wet the material. A weighted Fresno will bring more elasticity to the surface, which is useful if you experience edge cracking while stamping.

## Hot Weather Concrete Tips

**JOBSITE  
SUPPLY**

CONSTRUCTION IDEAS AT WORK

**Fritz Pak Control Finish** is a critical hot weather aid. It brings the “butter” or “cream” up to the surface for easier floating and troweling. It helps keep the surface from drying out too quickly and to remain elastic. Elasticity is important because the surface stretches as it is textured. If the surface is not pliable, it cracks. **Fritz Pak Control Finish** can be applied as needed and will not discolor the surface.

### **Organization:**

You may have two different areas of the pour ready for stamping. Have enough mats and people to stamp more than one area at a time. Have a good plan of what crew members are responsible for. Visualize your crew placing the concrete efficiently so everybody is freed to finish and stamp. The shorter window of opportunity in hot weather concrete demands a plan of action. Bad planning usually results in losing money to tear outs or overlay applications.

### **Fixes:**

To repair cracks, mix color hardener with a little bit of water or diluted **JS Strong Bond** into a slurry. Sift the coarse sand from a color hardener or use fine silica sand or flour and cement with the same integral color. Always test your slurry mix to assure the color matches. Rub the slurry into the cracks to repair them. You can use a rubbing brick to finish the repair. Another method is to lightly tap small cracks closed with a hammer the next day. Once you have repaired the surface defects you should seal the slab with **JS Crystal Clear Cure and Seal**.