



Placing Concrete and Using Optimus Surface Retarders

- **Place** concrete at a 4" – 5" maximum slump
- Screed **FLAT**, this is very important particularly for the Micro Finishes
- Bull float with a wooden bull float both directions
- Roller Tamp or Jitterbug in both directions
- Bull float a second time
- Wait until the bleed water has left before you do anything further
- Do all your edge work next, edge the slab with a metal edger then break the surface again with a wood float
- Begin the finish of the slab as you would with a mag float
- At this point you need to decide how you want the final surface, additional passes with a steel trowel compacts or tightens the surface. The big point now is to make sure that no "Bird Baths" or dips in the final surface show up Flat, Flat, Flat !!!
- If you choose to only make one pass, apply the Optimus Surface Retarder as soon as the finisher comes off the slab with their skates or kneeboards. Moisture is needed in the top surface of the slab to facilitate a proper reaction with the Optimus Retarders. Look for a surface that you can wipe your hand across to feel and see moisture. This is the key time of the process. Do not wait to long, early is better than too late.
- Apply the Surface Finish with a Chapin type sprayer with an adjustable 110 degree fan type nozzle with a .5 - .1.0 gpm. Apply Optimus Surface Retarder at a rate of 225-350 sq./gal. Spray a uniform hiding coat for best results. Pump the sprayer regularly to ensure the best pressure is retained for proper spraying.
- The Surface Retarder will dry on the surface in about 20 minutes, depending on the temperature
- Once dry will the coating will resist a light rain. You may also spray ACC Rain-Shield as well to protect from standing rainwater should heavy rain be anticipated for prolonged periods after placement.
- In very hot weather ACC Rain-Shield may also be used over the Optimus surface to aide in etch retention as well as moisture retention in allowing the retarded matrix to be more easily removed.

- You can begin washing the retarded surface off in as little as 4 hours. The concrete surface must be adequately hard to resist the cleaning process. Generally wash the slab 12 to 16 hours later. The slab can be washed up to 24 hours later, this is totally dependent upon the mix design and ambient temperatures as well as jobsite conditions and the washing procedures used.
- Use a power washer with about 1500 PSI and a 25 degree fan nozzle, do not get too close to the slab as you will leave deeper marks the closer you get. Try washing from about 6 to 10 inches away. Use a stiff bristle brush to help with this process. Wash until clear water runs from the surface. The Optimus Surface Retarder may also be removed using a buffer and scouring pad with a clear water rinse following. This is particularly useful on the lightest grades of Optimus Surface Retarder..
- Let dry and then seal