

HOT WEATHER CONCRETING

HOW TO GET IT RIGHT

Hot weather – high temperatures, low humidity, high winds – brings its own obstacles to placing concrete including accelerated slump loss, increased rate of setting (making finishing difficult) and an increased tendency for cracking, just to name a few.

The good news is that there are several tried-and-true ways to address these challenges and reduce the likelihood of the final product cracking or underperforming.

IT'S ALL IN THE MIX

Formulate your mix using proportions and materials – hydration stabilizers, water reducers, etc. – that have a strong track record in hot weather with the added benefit of not affecting the final strength of the concrete.

DAMPEN THE AREA

Concrete sets faster in hot weather and even more so when it hits warm ground, steel and formwork. Consider spraying these items with *just enough* water to cool them down but *not soak* the area.

SCHEDULE A WORKAROUND

Work with your partners to determine a time to place concrete when things are a bit more favorable such as in the evenings or very early in the morning to take advantage of lower temperatures.



CHILL THINGS OUT

Keeping concrete cool sometimes means starting with cooler materials. Consider using coarse aggregates that have been cooled by sprinkling water, chilled mix water or both. You may even need to replace some of the mix water with ice!

FASTER IS BETTER

Whether it is reducing the travel time or expediting the finishing, moving at a quicker pace should help improve the final product. Making sure the jobsite allows easy access for mixer trucks will help, too.



Hot weather can present challenges on any jobsite. However, by working together and utilizing some of the tips listed above you can help reduce any negative impacts the weather may have on the final product.