



Tips & Techniques Bulletin

29-May-12

(To be placed in Finalcrete Binder for easy reference.)

EXTENDING POT LIFE –UNDER HOT CONDITIONS

Condition:

During the summer months when the temperature on the work surface reaches over 50°C or you are working in direct sunlight on very hot days or it is very warm and the wind is strong causing quicker drying times.

Factor:

The conditions above are known to shorten the pot life of cement and quicken the set time causing the workability of each batch to be more difficult for the applicator.

Technique:

Remember you can apply Finalcrete on to a damp surface and this is especially true during hot conditions. Wetting the substrate helps the hydration process and this becomes important when using any Portland based cement product. Before you apply Finalcrete, if the surface isn't wet from power washing during preparation then, spraying it down before applying is a useful step. Although you don't need to wet cure the repair once you are done it is helpful under extreme heat conditions to give it a light spray of water and protect it from direct sunlight with burlap, but don't lay the burlap on the newly restored surface because you may get some unwanted staining.

Tip:

Alter the trowel mix slightly by using a ratio 1:3½ and then add ¼ part water.

To help extend the pot life which is being shortened by the extreme temperatures, so it can be trowelled easily and will set properly try following this helpful tip. To extend the mix on a hot day giving you about 10 to 15 minutes of working time, you first add the 1 part Finalcrete and then mix in the 3½ parts of dry mix and then add ¼ part water, mix it thoroughly and you are now ready to apply. At the beginning the slump is a bit looser than our traditional trowel mix but the workability is improved quickly as the minutes pass and you will notice by the end of that batch the slump becomes stiffer as it appears to thicken.

These tips and techniques for improving workability by extending the pot life should help on those stifling hot days with your concrete repair and restoration projects.