

# TIPS TO HELP ENSURE THE RESULTS YOU WANT

## GENERAL:

- Always use a qualified decorative concrete contractor with experience in integrally colored concrete.
- A test pour is highly recommended to make sure the results will meet your expectations.
- Avoid projects that require several small pours.
- Avoid pouring on different days.

## WEATHER:

- Don't pour concrete when rain (or any precipitation) is forecast within 48–72 hours.
- Don't pour concrete when the temperature is below 50 °F (10 °C).

## CONCRETE:

- Use a mix design suitable for your specific application.
- Don't use fly-ash or slag in the mix design. It will affect the color.
- Make sure that every truck contains the same number of metres/yards of concrete.
- NEVER ADD WATER** to the ready mix truck on site. **NEVER.**

## FINISHING:

- NEVER ADD WATER** to the surface. **NEVER.**
- Make sure that the concrete is an even thickness throughout.
- Finish all surfaces within the same timeframe after placing.
- Be sure the concrete is finished in the same direction when troweling.
- Never finish with long-handled Fresno trowels.
- Never use dirty or wet tools.
- Don't over-finish because this may darken the surface.

## CURING:

- Make sure that the concrete cures evenly and consistently.
- Make sure all areas dry at the same rate to avoid differences in color.
- Keep in mind that wind can affect the rate of curing and the final color of concrete.
- Keep in mind that concrete poured in shaded areas will be a different temperature than concrete poured in unshaded areas. This may result in color variations.
- Don't fog the surface with water.
- Don't use wet coverings, plastic sheeting, waterproof paper or liquid membrane curing compounds.

## SEALING:

- Wait at least 36 hours before applying a cure & seal.
- Allow the concrete to dry fully prior to application of sealer (approximately 30 days).
- Never use a water-based sealer on stamped concrete.

## CHOOSING A COLOR:

- NEVER** choose a color from an online color chart or from an electronic PDF. **NEVER.**
- Professionally printed color charts should be used as a guideline **ONLY**.
- Use an *Interstar Ready Mix Color Kit* to select a color.
- Select a color in the same lighting (e.g., indoors or outdoors) in which the concrete will be poured.
- ALWAYS** pour a test sample with your mix design to be certain the desired color can be obtained.