

The information and advice provided herein is given with the best intentions of giving you, as the homeowner & user of the product, a practical understanding of what decorative concrete is and what to expect of it as a material to have installed at your house.

Firstly & most importantly, **decorative concrete is concrete**. It is batched and delivered to site in real time ie it isn't pre-made or stored elsewhere for delivery on the day. The raw materials used are decorative stones (coarse aggregate), sand & cement. The specific concrete colour you choose is batched using various blends and types of each of these ingredients. It is delivered to site in a large agitator truck and immediately placed and finished by a team of concreters who you have engaged to do so. They are generally the purchasers of the product directly from Limecrete, and you are invoiced by them for a 'supply & lay' installation service.

Even though decorative concrete is generally more expensive than normal everyday concrete it is still concrete, and with that comes the same product characteristics. The main one (and the most common concern) is that it will crack so please expect it to somewhere at some stage. Measures put in place by both us as the manufacturer, and the concreter are designed to minimise the extent or occurrence of them. You cannot eliminate the possibility of cracking as the concrete sets and cures over time. Relevant Australian Standards allows for such and AS3727 is the official document that refers to this. The most common type of cracking to occur is shrinkage/drying cracks and they are generally superficial in nature and pose no structural concerns. It is impossible to predict where they may form however concrete placement methods attempt to promote cracking along cut lines where they are not a visual encumbrance. This may not always be the case though. Here are some examples of the types of cracks that may occur.



Colour selection. This is always a very personal and at times a consuming decision to make because once it is placed at your house that's it! You cannot alter the colour afterwards. There are many online images of concrete and it is very normal for this to be part of the early stage selection process. We do however recommend that you at a point close to deciding visit our display at Homebase in Subiaco where most of our products are on show at any one time, and allows you to see the many different colours & finishes available. We also recommend making the effort to view your chosen colour that has been placed on a driveway near you. We are more than happy to provide locations of such upon request – or should you happen to see a colour on your travels that you like, make enquiries with us and we can advise what colour that is or the nearest alternative to it?

Our range of colours – based upon the cement type used – are either grey, white, crème or premium grey. We can blend any stone matrix available into any of these base colours. Some oxide tints can be used, and these are more common with liquid limestone mixes and black colours. Our premium grey variant is more suited to a honed or polished finish where the sharper colour tones are far more noticeable than regular grey, as well as providing for a longer term colour consistency as regular grey colours can show signs of surface discolouration & ferrite staining. This is more noticeable with honed finishes.

Types of finishes. Depending on where the concrete is being placed, it will be finished with an exposed, honed, or polished surface finish. Driveways & side areas are commonly exposed, alfresco and pool areas are more suited to honing and internal concrete floors are polished. If unsure speak with us or your concreter about what is more appropriate for your area and budget? All concrete can be finished in any of these but please be aware that if you elect to have your concrete done with an exposed finish, it will be far more costly if you then want it honed rather than choosing the honed method from the outset.

Common finishing issues. Apart from cracking as discussed earlier, colour variation may exist in relation to previously poured areas using the same named product as concrete is batched using raw materials that are themselves a naturally occurring product. The extent of this variation cannot be quantified and is quite subjective hence why we recommend viewing similar jobs done recently. Other variations & imperfections can also arise from ambient weather factors such as heat & wind. If the concrete is in shaded areas versus direct sunlight, finishing techniques used by the individual concreter, and how the concrete was sealed. All of these should be discussed with your concreter beforehand. It is important that you understand & accept that there may well be minor imperfections because it is a product using naturally occurring materials that are manufactured in real time with a very short window to place & finish before the concrete sets.

Maintenance. In the initial phase of newly installed concrete, your contractor will apply several coats of sealant that should be appropriate for the mix chosen and where it was placed. We suggest a high penetrating type sealant for at least the first layer as this gets into the concrete and provides a more durable protection. Further coats can be then applied as arranged with your installer. Please remember that some sealants may slightly affect the colour of the concrete especially if it is a white based one. It would be useful to enquire with a sealant supplier such as WA Sealers, Parchem or Granex to name just a few about the practicalities of sealant applications.

Any stains or spilt materials can be easily cleaned away with a local application of diluted pool acid and quickly washed away with water. More stubborn stains may require a stronger acid or chlorine/bleach treatment, however this too may alter the original colour.

As concrete is very porous the initial application of sealers will more than likely be effective for up to 6 months and we strongly urge in having a further application of sealant from this stage to ensure longevity of the product. A useful way to see if the sealant has broken down is to apply a small amount of water to the surface and if it continues to bead then the sealant

is fine otherwise if it quickly disperses then that may well indicate it has lost its effectiveness. Concrete left unprotected for some time can show signs of surface deterioration and discolouration, hence why a properly sealed concrete surface will provide the best long-term outcome for the product. This is particularly important for pool surrounds where pool chemicals are more prone to seep into the surface over longer periods of time.

Lastly & most importantly – ***use a reputable installer to do your job!*** Unfortunately, there are a few ‘operators’ in this business who will charge much less making them appear more attractive to use but in the event of something going wrong you are unlikely to hear from them again, and the probability of a remedial outcome is extremely remote. To mitigate this, we strongly urge you to use installers who we regularly deal with or you have verified their credentials and previous work standards.

Please feel free to drop us an email at any time at sales@limecrete.com.au asking for product information and we will respond as best and as accurately as we can. Just remember we are not installers, only the product manufacturer, so our advice is limited to this.