

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.



Please note that there is no direct material warranty for concrete supplied.

**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 of grey cement based colours.

**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.

**Sealing and Maintenance.** In the initial phase of newly installed concrete, your contractor will apply a sealer that should be appropriate for the mix chosen and where it was placed. We recommend using SiF Sealers range of penetrative, water repellent sealers for maximum protection of your surface. For more information on SiF Sealers, speak to your concreter or visit [Limecrete | sifsealers.com.au](https://limecrete.com.au/sifsealers.com.au).

Concrete left unprotected & untreated for some time will very likely show signs of surface deterioration and discoloration, 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 water & chemicals are more prone to seep into the surface over longer periods of time and may well result in areas of spalling. Adequate maintenance of the concrete surface is necessary for both surface appearance and longevity. Ask your installer for their aftercare guidelines and ensure they align with our requirements.

Concrete sealing is a vital part of its durability and you as the material owner must maintain it accordingly.

Depending on the type but most stains, liquid spills, and surface contaminants can generally be cleaned away with a local application of a neutral pH concrete cleaning solution. More stubborn stains (greases, oils) may require the services of a cleaning professional. A yearly pressure clean is recommended to maximise the life of your external sealed surface and to keep it looking clean and free from surface contaminants.

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](mailto: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.