

Initial Finishing

STRIKEOFF

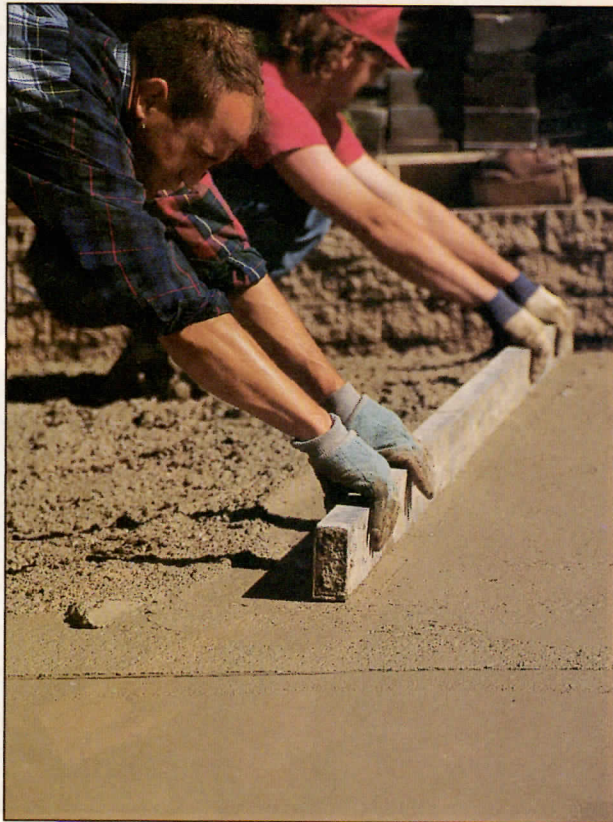
- Properly done removes excess concrete and brings top surface to grade
- Start as soon as possible after placing concrete
- End before bleedwater appears

STRIKEOFF TOOLS

- Hand straightedges can be wood or magnesium
- Straightedges should be 1 to 2 feet longer than the pour
- Wood straightedges should be clean and true (2x4 with no bow)
- Magnesium straightedges minimize surface tearing and are preferred on some specialty toppings

STRAIGHTEDGE

- Use a side-to-side sawing motion while pulling forward
- Tilt it slightly backward to create a single cutting edge
- Keep about an inch of concrete in front to fill low spots
- Make a second pass if the surface isn't to grade
- Pull concrete into (not away from) end edge forms



BULL FLOATS AND DARBIES



- Use to level ridges and fill voids left by straightedge
- Start immediately after strikeoff and finish before bleedwater appears
- Use at right angle to the direction of strikeoff
- Push the bull float with the front edge slightly off the surface to cut bumps; pull the bull float with the back edge slightly off the surface to fill voids
- Use magnesium tools for air-entrained concrete
- Darbies serve the same purpose as bull floats but for smaller areas; use in a sawing arc motion

WAITING PERIOD

- Begin further finishing when all the bleedwater has evaporated and concrete is firm enough to leave only ¼-inch-deep footprints
- Finishing while bleedwater is present can cause surface crazing, dusting, or scaling