

# Curing Concrete

## BASICS

Curing enables concrete to become stronger and more durable. Proper curing requires:

- Sufficient moisture content—use curing method to supply or retain moisture
- Favorable temperatures—50° F to 90° F
- Time—minimum of seven days or until concrete reaches 70% of its specified strength

## CURE CONCRETE IMMEDIATELY AFTER FINISHING BY:

### PONDING

- Build dike, then fill with water to cover the entire concrete slab
- Avoid water or dike material that can stain the concrete
- Use curing water at a temperature within 20° F of the concrete temperature
- Avoid premature or sudden release of ponded water, which can damage the surrounding environment

### SPRINKLING OR FOG SPRAYING

- Keep surface continuously wet; alternate wetting and drying causes craze cracking
- Use low water pressure and flow to avoid washing away the fresh concrete surface
- Use a water temperature within 20° F of the concrete temperature
- Avoid if water runoff can damage the surrounding environment

### USING WET MATERIALS

- Cover the concrete with wet burlap, straw, sawdust, or sand
- Wet continuously, or cover with plastic sheets and wet frequently
- Avoid materials that discolor concrete
- Prevent materials from blowing away

### USING PLASTIC SHEETS OR WATERPROOF PAPER

- Lay flat, lap edges 6 inches, and cover exposed concrete edges
- Use minimum 4-mil-thick plastic sheet: white in hot weather and black in cold weather
- Don't use on architectural concrete
- Secure covering to prevent concrete exposure

### USING CURING COMPOUNDS

- Apply after finishing when bleedwater disappears
- Apply in two applications, at right angles, to form a continuous film
- Typical coverage rates are 150-200 square feet per gallon

*For Summer  
curing*

