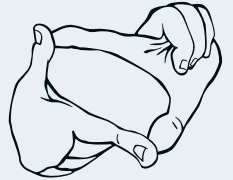


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AUSTIN, TEXAS

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CUTTING EDGE
CONCRETE DESIGN



NEW CONSTRUCTION

THE SLAB

- It is important to verbalize to workers often that the concrete slab will ultimately be the finished floor.
- Underslab vapor barrier/retarder (10 or 15 mil polyethylene) to be placed before concrete slab being poured. Vapor barriers can be purchased at concrete supply stores. All beams should be wrapped and all tears must be repaired prior to placing concrete slab.
- It is important to evenly creed the concrete to avoid dips and high spots. It is also necessary to adequately agitate the surface of the concrete using a "jitterbug" to bring the cement to the surface and cause the aggregate to sink down from the surface.
- To minimize the possibility of dehydration cracking, the following recommendations should be followed:
 1. Make sure the mat steel in the slab areas to be exposed is well blocked up so that the steel is in the top 2-inches of the concrete.
 2. Avoid pouring on hot, dry days, if possible. Pour early in the day during the summer.
 3. As soon as possible start wetting the concrete surface with a water sprinkler and don't remove the forms for several days; the goal is to slow down the dehydration process especially during the summer.
 4. **DO NOT COVER WITH PLASTIC.**
- Preferably use five-sack mix (3500 psi). Do not use surface curing compounds. Limit use of fly ash if possible. Do not use fiberglass mesh or fibers in concrete mix.
- Do not walk on slab before surface is dry to avoid footprints. Allow at least one day to cure fully.

FOR INTERIORS: to achieve a polished marble-like, hard, slick finish, the concrete finishers must power trowel (burnish) slab. Avoid over burnishing, however, and allow for some porosity so that the concrete can better accept the stain.

FOR EXTERIORS: To achieve slip resistance, the concrete finishers need to apply a light broomswept finish on all exterior concrete surfaces.