

PCCA Position Statement #9

Salt n Pepper Concrete - Class B

Salt n Pepper polished concrete casting requirements

Salt n pepper- exposure of the small aggregates. The level of exposure will significantly depend on the floor flatness F_F . This finish provide a more industrial look and can be called hit n miss, partial aggregate exposure and several more names. The floor needs to be greater than a F_F 45 finish. Ideally the class B finish has 85%-95% fine aggregate with 5%-15% cement fines and coarse aggregate.

For a successful Salt n Pepper polished concrete slab;

- The surface should be power floated. (To achieve a surface as pore-free and level as possible, thorough power floating is required).
- The surface should be power troweled
- Normally, the concrete surface should be water hardened under plastic sheeting for 5-7 days after casting, before it is time to start grinding and polishing.
- The surface must not be waterlogged when impregnating. (This is to enable the lithium silicate impregnation to penetrate and react with the concrete.)
- The floor surface needs to be flat. If the surface is not flat polishing significant exposure of the larges aggregate may have to occur. You want a floor greater than F_F 45.
- It is important that special care is taken to minimise contamination of the concrete such as dirt/building products being walked in or cigarette butts.
- All boot holes must be filled with fresh concrete and not just filled in with slurry as this will leave footprints in the surface which cannot be ground out.
- The screed should also never rest or be excessively pushed into the surface as this will also cause the aggregate to be pushed down and this cannot be fixed later.

Important Note:

The more the concrete surface is worked the further down the aggregate will be pushed. It is important that the floor is level as this will affect the amount of stone that is exposed. A very poorly leveled floor will require significant grinding which will ultimately expose a high level of aggregate.:



CASTING

For the floor to have a uniform appearance, the casting is of the greatest importance. (A poorly cast floor will be costly to grind, and even if the function of a polished floor can be achieved, the finish will be affected by uneven aggregate, cracks, etc.) The appearance of the finish is totally dependent on the concrete's appearance. Colour differences in the surface are to be expected. It is important to protect the slab during the building process from spills and staining as these cannot be removed.



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