HARTZEL'S CONCRETE

Mobile, Metered, Mixed To Match Your Project Specs

You have questions?
We have FAQ's.

Informational Reference Document

What strength concrete should I use?

- Many municipalities have minimum requirements for various uses of concrete, especially for curbs and public sidewalks. These change from municipality and the local requirements should be followed. Other strength requirements may be set by an engineer, architect or other design professional if you are using one.

  The minimum strength concrete we produce is 3000 psi mix. This strength is achieved by 28 days under controlled conditions. We normally work with a safety factor to meet or exceed this strength at the job site; however, site conditions or weather extremes may keep any concrete from reaching its full potential. We usually recommend a #3500 mix for steps and sidewalks along with a curing compound and/or sealer to combat salt and ice damage.

What does 'PSI' mean?

- PSI means "pounds of pressure per square inch". For example, 3000 psi will withstand 3000 pounds per square inch. So, when you see our strengths as #3000, #3500, #4000 or #5000, that refers to the psi the mix is designed to withstand. We submit our product for regular testing to guarantee that we meet these strength requirements on all our trucks.

What does 'metered' mean?

- We mix the concrete as it comes out of the truck so you only pay for what you need. We have a meter that tells us how much concrete has come out. We use that figure rounded to the nearest 1/10th of a yard when calculating the total at then end of the job.

  For example. If you order 8 yards, and you only use 6.5, we only charge you for 6.5 yards of concrete - plus any distance and other charges that might have applied. This can save you hundreds of dollars compared to our competitors.

  Plus, we always carry more than we need whenever we can because you might need more than you ordered. Because we mix on site, we can bring any extra amount we want without wasting any material. That's flexibility that wins - for us and for you!

What does 'site mix' mean?

- We mix the concrete on the job site. This means the concrete is always fresh and accurate to your needs. We can adjust the strength setting (#3000, #3500, #4000 or #5000) on site, as well as, the amount of water in the mix to control the 'slump' - how loose the concrete is - to match how you want to work with it.

  High slump is looser and flows more easily for spreading around in a large flat area or in footers, though it will set up slower becuase more water has to 'bleed out'. This can delay finishing time.

  Low slump is tighter and does not flow easily. This can be useful when pouring steps as you don't want the concrete to slump, but rather to hold the form. Since there is less water in low slump concrete, the set up time is much quicker and the finishing time is accelerated, especially in hot weather.

  Our ability to adjust the mix to a variety of onsite and weather factors during the pour allows you to control how your jobs goes. This can save you hours of time, and can make your life so much easier.

What weather can I pour concrete in?

- We can deliver concrete to you in weather warmer than 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Some jobs can be poured in the rain: inside pours, garages, basement floors, etc. In some cases footers and deck piers can be poured in mild to moderate rain; however this affects the curing process.

What does the curing process mean?

- It is the process by which concrete hardens. A chemical reaction bonds the aggregate together, creating a solid mass. Typically, the process takes 28 days for the full reaction to complete. After this time, it's full strength has been met.

What size jobs do you pour?

- We can very easily pour jobs up to 25 yards. We have 3 different trucks we use. Our trucks individually hold 8, 9, and 10 yards.

How should I protect my concrete from ice and snow?

- The best way to protect your concrete from Winter damage is to put a water-repellant sealer on it BEFORE Winter comes. This prevents moisture from penetrating the concrete and creating damage when it freezes and thaws. The alternate expansion and contraction of the moisture in concrete can cause it to deteriorate. Unsealed concrete will deteriorate much faster than concrete that is sealed annually. The sealer will also protect your concrete from the harsh chemicals we put on it to melt snow and ice in the Winter. These harsh chemicals actually eat into the surface of the concrete and allow moisture to get in faster. Sealing your concrete is the best way to protect it from these factors and extend its life.