



CURECRETE DISTRIBUTION, INC.

Technical Services

Bulletin No. 6, Revision 3

11-22-2000

THE ASHFORD FORMULA & WET CURING

Curing is the process whereby the cement in concrete fully reacts with water to produce strong and stable molecular bonds. If the cement is only partially hydrated, then the bonds are weak, and the concrete cannot reach its full strength. One of the major causes of poor hydration is the rapid loss of water immediately following the placement of the slab. For proper hydration, the slab must be able to **retain** enough moisture to carry out the reaction.

The best method for curing a concrete slab is the wet cure. This process involves the placement of water directly on the finished surface of the concrete. A covering is placed over the slab to retain the water and keep it from evaporating. Burlap, blankets, and plastic sheets are the most common coverings. Holding the water on the slab surface is the best way to ensure that the concrete is properly cured. Most wet cures last approximately seven days.

As an excellent curing agent itself, The Ashford Formula may be used to “team up” with a wet cure to produce outstanding results. The Ashford Formula’s chemical cure nicely complements the mechanical benefits of the water cure. There are, however, some guidelines on how this should be done:

1. Apply The Ashford Formula as per our usual instructions for new concrete.
2. Pay particular attention to the removal of excess residue of The Ashford Formula from the slab surface. Make sure that the slab surface is very thoroughly flushed and squeegeed so that no residue remains.
3. After a thorough flush and squeegee, immediately begin the normal wet cure on top of The Ashford Formula treated surface.

The Ashford Formula will immediately stabilize the finished floor surface, minimizing cracks and crazing. It will also create a barrier to the escape of moisture. The water cure will further aid the retention of water so that the entire slab reaches full strength. The water also accelerates The Ashford Formula’s reaction and thereby speeds up the sealing of the floor.