



## **THE APPLICATION OF THE ASHFORD FORMULA IN HOT WEATHER CONDITIONS**

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The following guidelines are the most important to follow when applying The Ashford Formula in hot weather:

- ✓ **The *first and foremost* important thing to remember is timing.**

It is necessary to get on the slab as quickly as possible. Those who apply The Ashford Formula should directly follow the troweling crew. As soon as the slab can be walked on, The Ashford Formula application should begin. Getting on the slab this quickly means that all material, personnel, and equipment are ready and waiting. Timing is absolutely critical.

- ✓ **The Ashford Formula must be on the slab surface for at least 40 minutes, and then must turn slippery, before it is removed.**

Two things must happen ***in sequence*** between the time The Ashford Formula is applied, and the time it is removed:

1. It must be on the surface a minimum of 40 minutes without drying or becoming slippery.
2. At some point after the 40-minute period, it must become slippery before removal. The minimum 40 minutes ensures adequate penetration. The slipperiness after the 40-minute soak-in period is evidence of a good chemical reaction with the concrete.

In conditions of high temperatures, low humidity, and high winds, the above events tend to take place out of sequence: The Ashford Formula actually becomes slippery, or even dry, ***before*** the end of the 40 minutes. In fact, in extreme conditions, this can happen very quickly. If this happens, The Ashford Formula is not penetrating or reacting adequately. Under these conditions, the best way to restore Ashford to its active, penetrating, non-slippery state is to mist it with water. Sometimes The Ashford Formula must be misted several times. However, enough material should be applied ***initially*** so that no misting is necessary during the first 15 minutes. (See below)

✓ **When The Ashford Formula is initially applied, it must be put down in liberal quantities.**

If the material is applied too lightly in hot conditions, it will immediately dry or become slippery. The key is to apply enough Ashford *right away* to last for at least 15 minutes without having to mist with water. This is a liberal amount, and may require more material than our standard 200 square feet per gallon.

Applying The Ashford Formula more lightly, and misting it with water every few minutes, will not produce acceptable results. The Ashford Formula must remain on the surface of the concrete for at least fifteen minutes, without becoming slippery or dry, before it is misted with water. After that, it should be misted and broomed as frequently as needed to keep it in a liquid, non-slippery state until it has been on the floor a total of 40 minutes. Once it becomes slippery, *after the minimum 40-minute soak-in period*, it may be removed with the flush and squeegee **(See the note at the end of this bulletin.)**

✓ **Use proper equipment.**

In hot weather, The Ashford Formula must be applied using pumps and hoses that will deliver large volumes of material. Hand-held sprayers will not suffice. Drum pumps, long hoses, and good nozzles are mandatory. Fine bristled brooms, and soft-rubber squeegees are also necessary. A good wet vacuum, with a squeegee attachment, can be used to remove the water and The Ashford Formula excess in lieu of the squeegee step.

✓ **Treat the slab in small, manageable sections.**

Sections that have already been sprayed require attention. The Ashford Formula needs to be broomed and agitated to aid penetration. Porous areas and slab edges tend to dry out, and require re-brooming or re-spraying. The slab needs to be misted with water if The Ashford Formula turns slippery. Someone needs to keep track of the time since The Ashford Formula was first applied. These things are easier to manage if relatively small areas (2000 to 5000 sq ft.) are done at a time. If the applicators are literally following the trowelers as they should be, treating areas larger than this will not be necessary anyway because only small areas at a time will become ready for The Ashford Formula.

✓ **Have plenty of water on the job site.**

Water at the job site is essential for misting The Ashford Formula, and for removing it properly, especially in hot conditions. Larger diameter hoses such as 2" fire hose are preferred because they help the process move quickly, although a garden hose with good pressure will certainly suffice.

✓ **Wet curing will enhance The Ashford Formula cure.**

Although not mandatory, a 3-7 day wet cure on top of The Ashford Formula-treated concrete is recommended. The chemical cure provided by The Ashford Formula, along with the mechanical cure provided by the moisture, work in combination to produce a better floor surface than either curing method will produce alone.

***Important Note:*** *The Ashford Formula should not become slippery or dry during the 40-minute soak-in period. During the first 15 minutes, prevent slipperiness or drying from occurring by applying additional material liberally. For the remaining 25 minutes of the soak-in period, prevent slipperiness by misting the surface of the concrete with water.*