



CURECRETE DISTRIBUTION, INC.

Technical Services

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THE USE OF THE ASHFORD FORMULA WITH EVAPORATION RETARDERS

Evaporation retarders are used on freshly placed concrete as soon as possible after the “bull floating” step. They are liquids, usually sold in concentrated form and diluted at the job site, typically nine parts water to one part retarder. They form a thin, monomolecular, continuous film over the concrete to prevent rapid evaporation of moisture when conditions are hot, windy, and/or dry.

According to the manufacturers, these products control plastic shrinkage cracking, improve the finish of the concrete, minimize crusting, and enhance the durability of the surface. They are not curing agents. Evaporations retarders are used to allow concrete contractors more time to properly finish the slab surface in harsh conditions. They consist primarily of fatty acids that quickly dissipate during the troweling operation. They usually contain fugitive dyes, but they do not ultimately affect the color of the concrete. Examples include Richmond RichFilm, Conspec Aquafilm, Euclid Eucobar, and L&M E-Con. They are normally applied at 200 to 400 square feet per gallon.

Normally, if any membrane at all is placed on the concrete before the application of The Ashford Formula, we require that material to be completely stripped and removed before The Ashford Formula can be applied. However, evaporation retarders are an exception because their presence and effect are merely temporary. They are applied during the floating phase, and by the end of the troweling phase (many hours later), these products completely dissipate.

Field experience has revealed that there is no problem in applying the Ashford Formula on slabs previously treated with these products. This assumes that the retarders are applied according to manufacturer’s instructions under conditions of direct sunlight, wind, and/or low humidity. It is also assumed that The Ashford Formula is properly applied according to the manufacturer’s instructions, and that the concrete is properly mixed, placed, and finished.