

Mixing and Placing Pumice Concrete



Pumice concrete is lightweight and can be pumped over long distances.



Hess Pumice Products

Post Office Box 209; 100 Hess Drive
Malad City, Idaho 83252
1.800.767.4701 x 111

AGGREGATE PREPARATION: PREWET

All pumice aggregate should be uniformly prewet to reach total saturation, then be allowed to sit while excess water drains out. This will fill the internal voids of the pumice with water. Prewetting the mix will prevent its drying out on the way to the placement site and slump will be uniform throughout the load, and from load to load. The concrete will also pump well if prewetted.

MIXING AND PLACING

ONE: Handling pumice concrete is very similar to handling normal-weight concrete, and follows the same basic rules for producing quality finished concrete.

TWO: Pumice concrete has about two inches less slump than normal-weight concrete for the same consistency and workability. Low-slump pumice concrete will flow when vibrated, and finishers can get on it much sooner when the slump is held to two-to-three inches.

THREE: Avoid over-vibrating or over-finishing pumice concrete. When using normal-weight concrete, segregation and over-finishing cause the paste to come to the top. With pumice concrete, it's the coarse pumice particles that float to the top.

FOUR: Pumice concrete is cured in the same method as is normal-weight concrete.

FIVE: Form removal should be delayed for an additional 24 hours for pumice concrete as compared to normal-weight concrete. This applies only if sharp corners are formed, as they are softer for a few days.