

CARTER CONSTRUCTION

Building relationships...

not just building



- INTEGRITY
- QUALITY
- COMMITMENT

CA Lic 816048

POURING A CONCRETE DECK? A FEW DO'S AND DON'TS

1. **DO** make sure that your sub-grade is adequately compacted and moist (not saturated) immediately prior to the pour.
2. **DO** make sure that all formwork is sound and sufficiently braced. Concrete acts as a liquid during the placement process and the pressures on formwork can be significant.
3. **DON'T** pour your slab above the bottom of your stucco line. There is a weep screed located at this line to allow for any moisture that has penetrated your stucco to be eliminated from the structure. If you seal this weep screed, trapped water can wick back up into your wall framing and, over time, create structural or mold concerns.
4. **DON'T** pour in the rain! Rains causes the fines of the concrete mix to rise to the surface and create dusting that will seemingly never end. It also weakens the uppermost portion of the slab and make for an unsightly finish.
5. **DO** plan on the concrete slab cracking. Let's be clear on this - concrete cracks! So, do plan on plenty of joints (construction or tooled joints) to help hide unsightly cracking and to help confine it these joints. You may still see some errant cracking, but the more joints you have, the less these will occur. Pay particular attention to long spans and larger areas of flatwork and at all inside corners. You can further minimize the effects of cracking by installing welded wire fabric (WWF) or reinforcing steel (rebar) at regular intervals.
6. In normal Southern California conditions, do plan on staying off the slab for at least 24 hours to allow the concrete to cure. In colder weather, this time increases without special treatment.
7. Unless you are adept at the placement of concrete, do hire a licensed contractor to place and finish the concrete for you. Remember concrete is permanent and mistakes are hard to erase.

760-631-1256
carterconstruction@cox.net
www.carter-construction.net
Oceanside, CA