



**Saw Cut Joint Concerns**



**Fiber in the concrete could cause issues with the polishing...**

**Saw Cut Joint Concerns**



**If concrete is to be exposed or polished, discuss having Velcro or something to soften the skid plates, in order to prevent trail marks.**

**These scratches will NOT go away with polishing the concrete.**

**FF/FL & Existing Concerns**



**Polished concrete surface is dependent on the concrete floor flatness. Less flat the concrete, more waviness concrete will appear**

**We must manage expectations when we are polishing existing concrete**

**Storage Issues...**



**Be careful NOT to leave equipment, boxes, tape, etc. on the concrete... IT WILL PRODUCE A SHADOW.**

Polished concrete is a durable floor finish that we are seeing on many of our projects lately. Polished concrete has certain requirements that we should understand in the bidding phase as well as the construction phase.

This bulletin goes over those special needs of polished concrete and lessons learned for bidding and construction.  
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- ⦿ Make sure that we install a 15mil vapor barrier per Concrete Polishing Association of America (CPAA).
- ⦿ If the existing SOG that is being polished does not have a vapor barrier, we will need to manage the color expectations that is likely to vary due to moisture.
- ⦿ CPAA recommends evaporation control and wet curing concrete slabs according to *ACI 308R-01: Guide to Curing Concrete without the use of topically applied curing compounds. (While topically applied curing compounds may assist with curing during the first few days after concrete placement, they retard concrete drying in the weeks and months after curing and may cause the slab to be too wet when the time comes for diamond polishing or floor covering application)*
- ⦿ Either eliminate fly ash or slag in the concrete mix or limit to 20%...*Fly ash will limit the uncombined alkalis needed for chemical reactions with densifiers that aid in polishing, this will also inhibit colored/stained concrete which also needed these chemical reactions per ACI 310.*
- ⦿ Admixtures in the slab, such as plasticizers, retarders, accelerators, can cause random variations in set times, which could cause variations in color and finish of the concrete.
- ⦿ Concrete shall be at least 28 days cured prior to the polishing.
- ⦿ CPAA recommends specifying the following tolerances  $F_F - 50$  overall / 35 min. local value &  $F_L - 30$  overall / 20 min. local value. **NO BURNISHED CONCRETE FINISH.**
- ⦿ A decision should be made early to determine if the polishing is to happen prior to the wall installation. Floor protection will need to be taken into account for the remainder of the construction, if this is the course of action (see protection requirements below).
- ⦿ The downside of waiting for the walls to be installed is that the edges will need to be hand polished at the walls, which will have a different profile/look to the polishing.
- ⦿ Discuss finishing at the slab edges, all edges, columns, etc...hand finishing will produce a different polished concrete finish when polishing.
- ⦿ CPAA recommends saw-cutting slabs as soon as possible after finishing using a saw blade that has a triangular arbor configuration to reduce edge raveling or dislodging aggregates. *If dry-cut method is used, make sure that there is a vacuum attached...the residue will stain the concrete at the joint and it will show when polishing.*
- ⦿ The soft cut machine will need to be reviewed so that the skid plates do NOT create scratches in the concrete, as these scratches will not come out in polishing.
- ⦿ CPAA recommends the following spacing to minimize slab curling and cracking (24x slab thickness):
 

4" slab = 8'-0" o.c. each way	5" slab = 10'-0" o.c. each way
6" slab = 12'-0" o.c. each way	8" slab = 15'-0" o.c. each way
- ⦿ Identify concerns regarding **construction traffic and protection needed** based on type of polished concrete floor and the anticipated construction time and trades to be in the

1. Sweep up all debris immediately...do not use oil based sweep compounds	7. Use pre-approved cleaners ONLY
2. Immediately report all accidental spills	8. Do not eat or drink on slab
3. Obtain proper authority to use an equipment on slab	9. Diaper all wheels and protect slab with proper protection and absorbent drop cloths when working on slab
4. Do not store materials on slab	10. Only use breathable protection
5. Do not tape anything to slab	11. Do not allow any markers, spray paint, etc
6. Do not park any equipment on floor	12. No pipe cutting operations

