

Curing

Concrete should be protected from early loss of moisture (this loss can cause shrinkage cracking, as little strength development has occurred to withstand the stresses resulting from the volume change from evaporation).

Cure your concrete immediately after the finishing process for a **minimum of three days**, preferably seven.

Methods of Curing

- ▶ **Ponding:** build a sand bund around the perimeter and fill with water to cover slab
- ▶ **Spraying:** the use of sprinklers to keep slab continuously wet.
- ▶ **Covering:** impermeable covering such as plastic sheet will trap moisture on concrete surface and minimise evaporation.
- ▶ **Curing compounds:** apply after finishing when bleed water disappears (use with caution, these products may affect follow on trades like paint, tiles, vinyl, adhesives).
- ▶ **Ensure curing is even and consistent** - do not allow some areas to dry and some to stay wet during curing - different colors will likely result.
- ▶ **Do not store anything on wet or covered concrete**, as this will change the way the concrete cures beneath, likely colour variation.