

Pre-pour *checklist*

Fourteen things worth confirming before any concrete truck arrives. Print it, walk the site, and tick as you go. Almost every concrete failure we get called out to repair traces back to one of these.

SHORT ANSWER

Before a concrete pour, confirm the base is excavated and compacted in layers, falls are correct, formwork is braced, the vapour barrier is intact, reinforcement is the specified size sitting on chairs at the right cover, joints are planned, the mix is confirmed, and a curing method is ready on site.

- 01 Base excavated to level and unsuitable material removed**
Topsoil, roots and soft spots taken out rather than covered over.
- 02 Base material compacted in layers**
Compacted in lifts, not in one hopeful pass. This is the single most common shortcut.
- 03 Levels and falls checked against the drawings**
Water needs somewhere to go. Confirm falls run away from the building and into drainage.
- 04 Formwork straight, braced and to the right height**
Braced for the actual pour rate, not to habit. A blowout costs more than the bracing.
- 05 Vapour barrier laid without punctures**
Check for tears around penetrations and where wheelbarrows have run over it.
- 06 Reinforcement the size and grade specified**
Mesh or bar as the engineer stated, not the closest thing on the truck.
- 07 Steel sitting on chairs at the specified cover**
Cover is what protects the steel from corroding. Steel on the ground has no cover at all.
- 08 Laps and edge distances correct**
Mesh laps and bar laps as specified, and the steel held back from the edges.
- 09 Penetrations, box-outs and set-downs in place**
Cheaper now than cutting them in afterwards. Check against the plumbing and services plans.
- 10 Joint layout agreed before the pour**
Control joints planned to the drawings so the slab cracks where you chose.

11 Concrete mix and slump confirmed with the supplier

Strength grade as specified. Do not let water be added on site to make placing easier.

12 Access for the truck or pump sorted

Confirm the truck can actually reach, or the pump is booked. Discovering this on the day is expensive.

13 Enough people booked for the pour

Concrete does not wait. Placing, screeding and finishing all have to happen inside the window.

14 Curing method ready before you start

Plastic, curing compound or water on hand. The step most crews skip, and the one that decides how it lasts.

Want this priced, or just want a straight answer? [Call 0490 191 019.](tel:0490191019)

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