

Teamwork in the Manual Placement of Concrete

Problem:

Concrete, by its nature is heavy (1 cubic foot weighs approximately 148 pounds). Minimizing the moving/handling of this material during the pour/placement makes both ergonomic and economic sense.

Unfortunately, over exuberance or other factors may see the chute or hose tender pour fresh concrete too far ahead of the placing crew, causing the frequent additional shoveling, raking & rodding of the same material many times. This not only hampers productivity but it is inefficient and frequently demoralizing to the placing crew. The practice is both ergonomically and economically irresponsible.

- Pulling high mud or filling holes over long expanses of already poured material is exceptionally strenuous. Spreaders and rodders are both unnecessarily fatigued increasing the likelihood of strained muscles and back injuries.
- Stress and fatigue associated with trying to 'catch up' for a hole to place.

'High Material' increases anxiety and can lead to loss of temper which again can result in injury from muscle tightness.

One Solution:

Never pour more than the length of the screed bar ahead of the placing crew. This allows for an area where 'high material' can be pulled and creates a place for extra material when needed.

It also allows enough room for workers to do their jobs with out running into each other.

You may start pouring ahead of this bay, but leave an open area. Pour the shoulders first. Always start with the wall line (if there is one) or cold joint so workers can address these before the placing/rodding crew arrives vying for work space. Then fill in the middle of the bay just as the screed crew arrives.

Factors:

- Working together with the hose or chute tender will eliminate excessive material handling/movement
- Less fatigue means less injury.
- Less fatigue means better morale.

The more efficient the work process, the more productive the job.

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Tips for Use of Technique: When possible, pour the shoulders of wall lines or cold joints ahead before filling the center of the bay. This practice allows the pour crew time to prepare the grade for the rod or screed crew.



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Hose tender staying just ahead of Rodding crew



This practice will reduce both physical and mental stress for all involved. Moving concrete after it is placed is unnecessary when Teamwork is on the job.

How Much Will it Cost?

This practice costs nothing and saves minds & backs

How does Technique Affect Productivity?

Anytime workers are happier and the work is getting done with less stress, productivity increases

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