

Whispercast MicroETCH

Slip Resistant In-Situ Concrete Paving

Whispercast MicroETCH is a practical, decorative finish for in situ concrete pavement. The process involves application of HRL Colchem micro top surface retarders, with a reveal depth of approx. 0.5mm, on to integrally coloured concrete slabs. The process can also be applied to bespoke, large dimensional, precast slabs.

Surface Retarders and Etching gels are self neutralising after reaction, resulting in non-hazardous residue.

METHOD STATEMENT

1. MicroETCH surfaces are achieved by application of HRL Colchem Multitop Micro top surface retarders using grade CSE 01 (Blue) with a reveal depth of 0.5mm. The retarder is sprayed onto the plastic concrete surface, once all surface water has evaporated (see CSE data sheet). The colour coded material will indicate full coverage and care should be taken to ensure edges and corners are completely treated.
2. After 24 hours the retarded surface should be thoroughly power washed to remove retarder residue and any resulting laitance. This will lightly expose the tip of the matrix aggregate within the concrete, giving a subtle, slip resistant texture, contrasting with the selected colour. Following the wash off process and whilst the concrete surface is slightly damp, an application of Colchem MicroGEL etching gel should be aggressively brushed into the surface and left to react for a period of between 30 and 45 minutes. When the reaction is complete, the finished slab should be thoroughly washed off with clean water. Water run off or any residue will be ph neutral at this point, leaving a clean enhanced surface appearance.
3. Once the process is complete, the finished slab should receive an application of a penetrating dirt and stain resistant protective coating. The options are : Colchem Colorfresh Intensiv – giving a colour enhanced sheen, Colchem Colorfresh Effect – for a matt “wet” appearance, or Colchem Colortec Max – which is invisible after application.

NOTES

- a. Concrete should be PAV1 (C25/C30) or PAV 2 (C32/C40) paving grade with a cement content of between 280 kg and 340 kg per cu. mtr, depending on application sought. Course aggregate size within the mix should be in the range of 10mm – 12mm. The use of a proportion of GGBS cement substitute is acceptable, reducing carbon footprint.
- b. Controlled colour addition is incorporated by use of HRL Colchem Classic Landscape Colour, in accordance with the producers' instructions, at a pre dosed rate of 1 x unit per cu. metre. This ensures consistency of the matrix colour (See separate data sheet and colour chart).
- c. Surface protection, as described, is essential for long term appearance and durability.

Production of on site trial panels are strongly recommended.

