

Mix and lay concrete

What you will learn

When you have finished the workbook sections in this module on mixing and laying concrete, you should be able to:

- Work out the size of a job and how much concrete you need
- Get the ground ready for a concrete slab
- Build formwork
- Mix concrete by hand — and in a mixer
- Pour and compact concrete
- Level and finish concrete
- Let concrete cure correctly.

Things you need before you start

Tools or equipment

You will need tools to mix and to lay concrete:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| measuring and marking tools | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| spade, shovel, pick | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| timber for formwork | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| mixer, bucket or measure | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| wheelbarrow | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| screed, float and finishing trowel | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| hose or water can and polythene sheets | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Course resources

- Course video. This shows you concrete being mixed, laid and levelled.

How do we make and lay concrete

Here are the main steps to make and lay concrete.

Each step is covered in more detail in a workbook section later.

Concrete is a mix of sand, cement, stone/rock and water.



They are mixed in different amounts for different jobs

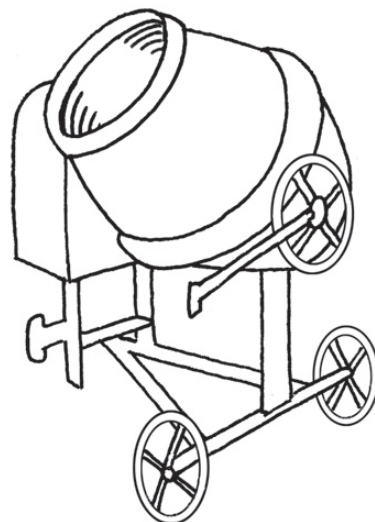
MIX together

to make concrete

by hand



or in a mixer



POUR the concrete

into a prepared site



COMPACT the concrete

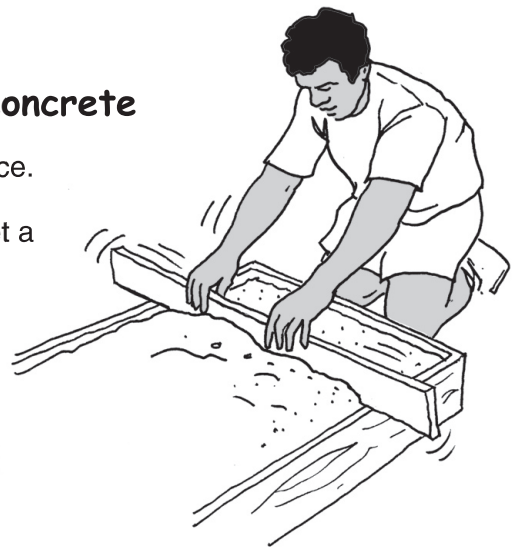
to make sure it fills all the spaces and get air bubbles out



LEVEL the concrete

to get a flat surface.

And *finish* it to get a smooth surface



Finally CURE the concrete

keep it damp for a time while it gets hard



Now work through each workbook section

Each section shows

How to do that step

Your tutor will show you:

- examples of tools and equipment
- how to use the tools to work the concrete
- the dangers to watch out for — and the safe way to do things.

You will:

- Practise mixing and pouring
- Mix, lay and finish concrete on a project or real job
- Work in groups of 2 or 3 people.
 - talk to each other
 - help each other to get things right
 - check that others are doing things safely.