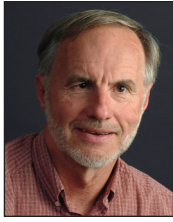


Decorative Concrete



Managing Weather In the August 2007 issue of CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION, there is an article titled "Preventing Plastic Surface Cracking." The article stresses the importance of knowing what the ambient weather conditions are on your jobsite in order to determine whether conditions are right for surface crusting. This is especially important for decorative concrete contractors and even more important for those stamping patterns and textures because surface crusting causes impressions to be distorted with shallow cracks appearing everywhere. If you know the wind speed, air temperature, relative humidity, and concrete temperature you can plot the numbers on a nomograph published by the Portland Cement Association and the American Concrete Institute. The problem has always been getting accurate jobsite information. But at the World of Concrete, Kestrel Pocket Weather Meters introduced a very accurate handheld weather instrument weighing only a few ounces developed just for the concrete industry. If you hold the instrument 20 inches above the area to be concreted, it will record ambient conditions. When you enter the temperature of your concrete into the unit, it automatically calculates the rate of surface evaporation. Evaporation rates exceeding 0.20 tell you that surface drying conditions are excessive. This information helps you know beforehand the risks. Then you have to decide what to do.

Weather has such an influence on concrete. I urge you to manage your situation and not be victimized by it. For more information on this product, visit www.kestrelweather.com. — Joe Nasvik



Above: When you enter the concrete temperature into the instrument and take a site reading, information about drying shrinkage is immediately calculated and presented on the screen.

This handheld weather instrument was introduced at the World of Concrete and was developed just for the concrete industry. Photos: Joe Nasvik