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OTA™ – PROPER CONCRETE FINISHING TECHNICAL BULLETIN

The OBEX Troweling Aid, or OTA™, is a specifically-formulated finishing aid developed to support fast-track construction schedules. It is an excellent, cost-effective tool for speeding the finishing process and is particularly valuable in challenging environmental conditions such as hot, sunny and windy days. It's on those days, in particular, when a newly poured slab is most likely to “get away” from the finishing crew. While it is not an acceptable industry standard, water is typically free and readily available on jobsites, and in challenging placement circumstances, water is frequently added to the design mix and/or during the finishing process. In those instances, such decisions will substantially impact the finished concrete's durability. OTA™ offers considerable benefits over water or evaporation retarders that are commonly, and improperly, worked into finished concrete.

OTA™ counts all of the following as Features and Benefits:

- Speeds troweling for creamy finish while reducing the instances of curling
- Penetrates concrete surface to develop increased surface abrasion resistance
- Fast-track, easy-spray application suitable for both indoor and outdoor application
- Eliminates dusting and pitting of new concrete while saving time and labor expense
- Engineer recommended and environmentally-safe with no VOCs

OTA™ is a performance troweling aid that extends the workability of concrete up to an additional 45 minutes, producing a superior finished surface when applied properly. OTA™ solves most (if not all) of the challenges of producing a flawless, high-performance concrete surface, even in the most demanding environments, and especially in extreme, rapid-drying conditions (sun, wind and low humidity). OTA™ is applied quickly and easily, is environmentally- and user-friendly while extending the workability time of concrete and promoting easier finishing. One engineer commented, “It's like adding another pair of hands on the job. I love it.”

OBEX is proud to offer an innovative, superior concrete finishing aid that will improve the concrete by making it stronger and more durable. OBEX products have been consistently fine-tuned and tested to offer the most comprehensive performance levels available at a competitive Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) price. In the case of OTA™, OBEX is presenting the market with a cost-effective alternative to the flawed, and yet widely employed tactic of applying water, or evaporation retarders not designed to be used in that manner, during the finishing process as troweling/finishing aids. OTA™ is fully compatible with ASTM C309 / C1315 curing compounds and evaporation retarders, and is designed to be utilized during the finishing and placement of concrete, prior to the application of any film-forming curing compounds.

CONCRETE FINISHED WITH WATER
OR EVAPORATION REDUCER



CONCRETE FINISHED WITH OTA™
OBEX TROWELING AID





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Efforts to develop and exploit disruptive technology that improve the timeliness and quality of completed tasks are critical to vibrant growth and evolution in any industry. However, adoption of new products and/or practices is one of the most challenging aspects for any industry to overcome – changing long-standing behaviors is hard to do. Concrete placement and finishing practices are no exception. In the case of concrete, much of the resistance often comes in one of two forms – 1) the “not invented here” sentiment – “I’ve done it like this for 30 years”; and/or 2) the new approach is regarded as expensive compared to alternatives – “Why would I use OTA™ when an evaporation retarder costs pennies per square foot? The answers are simple:

1) Finishing concrete with water, and other products not specifically formulated for finishing, is BAD for the strength and durability of concrete. This is an indisputable, scientific fact.

2) The statistically proven durability compromises associated with water, or evaporation retarders, used inappropriately as finishing aids mean Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) WILL be higher over time because the service life of the concrete is lessened and will need to be replaced sooner because it was improperly finished.

What gets measured is what gets done. Industry standards and practices are evolved to reflect best practices and proven construction, fabrication and installation processes. In the construction trades there are two constant refrains – be “on time” and be “on budget.” When it comes to the pressure of “cutting corners” (using products outside of their intended use or in violation of industry standards and practices) it is almost always attributable to the overwhelming ambition of staying on schedule and/or on budget. Fast-track construction schedules and an insatiable demand for lower-cost projects conspire to promote the familiar and comfortable, but flawed, approaches while resisting the new.

The durability and longevity of projects should be of paramount importance to owners, architects, contractors, manufacturers and tradesmen. The scientifically-proven efficacy of the OTA™ concrete finishing product is proof that there is innovation and value-engineering available to those willing to defy tired and flawed practices to embrace a new long-term view of concrete construction costs and project durability.