

SAFE HANDLING OF READY-MIXED CONCRETE

WARNING

Prolonged skin contact with fresh (wet) concrete may cause:

- cement burns (as the alkalis from cement reduce sensitivity of the nerves, you may not initially feel pain or be aware that damage is being done)
- irritant or allergic dermatitis (short and long term problems)

HANDLING

Fresh concrete is heavy (approximately 2.5 tonne per cubic metre) and this may cause physical injury if you are not used to manual labour or if handling precautions are not taken

PREVENTION IS SIMPLE

√ Avoid direct contact with wet concrete

√ Do not sit or kneel on the wet concrete as harmful contact can occur through saturated clothing

√ Wear appropriate protective clothing, e.g. rubber boots, waterproof clothing, gloves, goggles

√ Have sufficient help so that you can place, compact and finish the concrete without straining yourself and before it sets

IF THINGS GO WRONG

If clothing becomes saturated, remove and wash yourself with clean water and soap. Do not put the saturated clothing back on

If concrete gets into your rubber boots, remove and wash yourself and the boots with clean water. After washing out, you may continue to wear the boots, preferably when dry

If concrete gets splashed into your eyes, wash out immediately with plenty of clean water and then seek medical advice as soon as possible

If you have ignored all the above advice and start to experience any discomfort which could be attributed to having been in contact with fresh concrete, seek medical advice as soon as possible