



“How to Design for Decorative Concrete for Home or Office”

As we all know, life is about choices. The same can be said when deciding on the materials for a driveway, interior floor, patio, pool deck, office showroom, entryway or wall. You have choices. With decorative concrete, you can start with new concrete or apply an overlay over an existing concrete surface. Once you have decided on the concrete surface for texturing and coloring, your next step is to decide on the design considerations that will result in the finished look and feel you want.

Now comes the fun and creative part.

Decide on a suitable texture: You can choose from slate, stone, tile, wood, brick, cobblestone and a variety of textures. You can choose a texture to fit your design theme or mix and match for contrast and style. Often, the look you want will make that decision for you. For example, pick a smooth texture for a durable driveway, or a slightly rough or porous surface for a pool deck.

Choose a compatible pattern: We offer a wide selection of texture mats and skins for an array of patterns. Stamping tools are crafted to represent stone patterns of different sizes and shapes. Which pattern is right for you? Consider these factors: Do you want hard edges or curves? Is the project designed to look like man-made tile, or a natural pathway? How big is the area to be decorated? Is it an interior or exterior surface?

Larger grouted patterns on a big area are more pleasing to the eye. Smaller patterns seem to be more suitable to interiors, garden paths or intimate patios. Patterns can give a straight geometric look, or a wavy undulating look that contributes to a serene feel in an outdoor area.

Select the right colors: The colors you choose will enhance any design setting. You can choose several different materials to achieve the desired color effect. Color hardeners, antique Releases, Integral Colors, Acid Stains, Water-based Stains, and Colored Coatings offer a way to achieve subtle, natural-looking colors. All these options will enhance your project and offer an economical combination. Remember to always prepare a sample so you can anticipate what the final result will be.

Find the right sealer: Concrete sealers can beautify and enhance your project, just like varnish on wood. Sealers provide protection from sun and water damage, oil stains, dirt, tire marks, and even graffiti. They can deepen and enrich colors, and can even be given a color tint. You can choose from high gloss, medium and low gloss, slip resistant and water based environmentally friendly sealers.

The choices are endless and most importantly they are yours. Call your local Intermountain Concrete Specialties representative, they will assist you with all your decorative and architectural concrete needs.