

Preparing and Finishing Concrete – DVS 5843

Skills

A skill is the level of competence a person has in relation to a given objective. Skills may be learned or inherent. With practice, training, and experience one can vastly improve one's skills.

Adapted from: <http://lesdefinitions.fr/habilete#ixzz2WrSEJkg3>



The skills required to practice the Preparing and Finishing Concrete trade are the following:

<i>Cognitive Skills</i>	<i>Mathematics</i>	The trade requires knowledge of basic math operations with or without fractions, mastery of the rule of three, and knowledge of percentages. Geometrical notions are particularly important for calculating dimensions such as volume and surface area. Cement finishers must know both metric and imperial systems.
	<i>English</i>	Reading competency is essential to acquire and understand technical terminology and vocabulary. It is also paramount to the comprehension and interpretation of information found in plans, written estimates, the technical data sheets of the products used as well as the various norms and standards governing the trade.
	<i>Other</i>	Cement finishers must have a working knowledge of the chemistry and the applied physics involved in the material, the substances, and the products used in cement preparation and finishing.
<i>Technical Skills</i>		Cement finishers must have good manual dexterity, coordination of sight and movement and an excellent synchronicity in motion and space. They must also execute tasks quickly due to the speed at which cement sets.
<i>Perceptual Skills</i>		Cement work demands good spatial perception and the ability to visualize volumes and imagine geometrical shapes from drawings. A good sense of observation and of smell along with visual acuity are helpful in detecting possible dangers.
<i>Social Skills</i>		Cement finishers must be able to express themselves clearly and establish sound working relationships with fellow members of the construction crew.

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Requirements related to working conditions

The information contained in this document comes from the professional analysis report provided by the Commission de la construction du Québec in collaboration with its private sector partners, which include licensed cement finishers. We find it extremely important to provide complete information to you on the particular features of the trade to allow you to make an enlightened decision in line with your own interests and aptitudes.



The table below outlines the requirements pertaining to the working conditions of cement finishers in the province.

<i>Health and safety</i>	Health and safety risks are related to the misuse of tools and equipment, the mishandling of construction material, the displacement of loads, and working at heights. Tasks associated with the trade also carry ergonomic risks and as such require top physical form. General safety rules must be understood and respected to minimize work-related injury.
<i>Stress</i>	Cement work can be stress-inducing due to the pressure of deadlines and the risk of work-related accident or injury. Moreover, the added pressure of cement drying time to maximize finishing quality is also a factor.

Attitudes

General behaviour refers to a manner or a way in which one should comport oneself in given situations. It is less of a skill and more of a specific way to do things. Attitudes and deeply ingrained habits are part of this category.



These are the main attitudes that a cement finisher must adopt:

- Autonomy;
- A spirit of initiative and ingenuity;
- A sense of responsibility;
- A sense of organization;
- Punctuality and diligence in the workplace;
- Respect for timeframes, time constraints and limits;
- Concern for precision, neatness, and quality in the finishing stage of one's work;
- Concern for safety in the workplace for oneself and others.