CONGRATULATIONS.

You are a new concrete owner. You have made an investment that will add value and aesthetics to your home for years to come. Like any building material, concrete requires some maintenance to maximize its service life. ARM recommends the following practices:

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Call your local concrete contractor, ready-mixed concrete producer or www.chooseconcrete.com

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20.11 2/17/15

Concrete Maintenance for Home Owners

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TIME FRAME: IMMEDIATELY

Cure the Concrete Curing is a process that provides a moist environment that prevents newly placed concrete from drying out. In cold weather, additional curing methods are required to prevent the newly placed concrete from freezing. Curing is a critical step in any concrete project because proper curing maximizes the strength and durability of concrete. The curing process should begin as soon as the finished concrete surface is strong enough to remain undisturbed by the curing process. Concrete should be cured for a minimum of 7 days.

You and your concrete contractor should use one of the following methods to cure your concrete:

- Soaker Hoses
- Ponding
- Saturated Covering (Wet Burlap)
- Plastic Sheets
- Curing Compounds

In cold weather, concrete should be covered with insulated blankets to prevent the concrete temperature from falling below freezing.

Visit the ARM website (www.armofmn.com) for additional details on concrete curing.

TIME FRAME : 4 WEEKS

Seal the Concrete Concrete sealers are chemical compounds that are applied to the concrete surface. These products work by sealing the concrete surface and preventing the penetration of water and harmful substances. Sealing concrete protects your investment by extending the service life and preserving the aesthetics of your concrete product.

- ARM recommends a high quality silane and/or siloxane sealer be applied 4 weeks after the placement of the concrete.
- Your contractor or concrete supplier can provide recommendations on what products to use.
- The sealer manufactures instructions on surface preparation and application rates should be strictly adhered to.
- Be sure to ask your concrete contractor what products they used to cure your concrete. Special steps may be needed to prepare the concrete surface for sealing if certain products were used.

TIME FRAME: BEYOND 4 WEEKS

Resealing Sealers will need to be reapplied. Follow your sealer manufacture's recommended reapplication schedule. You can spot check portions of your concrete to determine when sealers need to be reapplied. When water no longer beads on the surface of the concrete, it is time to reapply a sealer.

Protecting Your Investment

- Promptly removing snow and ice accumulation from your concrete will increase its service life.
- Avoid using de-icing chemicals on your driveway for at least the first winter. Instead, sand/grit can be used for traction.
- Always be sure to check the labels on de-icers. Never use products which contain magnesium chloride or potassium acetate.
- Fertilizers contain substances which chemically attack concrete. Fertilizer should never be used as a de-icer. Promptly sweep off any fertilizer that is inadvertently cast on the concrete when spreading lawns.