Products in Practice

Successful Hot Weather Concreting

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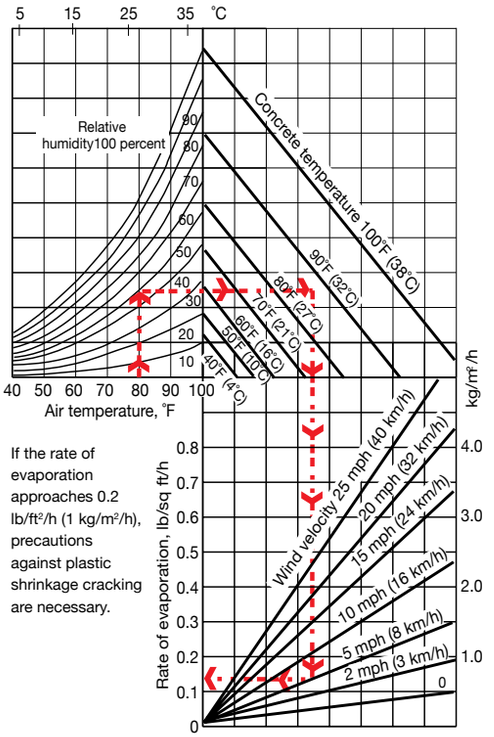
Hot weather can lead to many problems in mixing, placing, and curing of concrete that can have an adverse effect on its properties and service life. This guide has been developed by BASF to assist the entire construction team (owners, specifiers, contractors, and ready-mixed concrete producers) in the design, manufacture, delivery, placement and curing of quality concrete in hot weather.

ACI Committee 305 defines hot weather as any combination of high ambient temperature, high concrete temperature, low relative humidity, wind speed and solar radiation. The effects of high temperature, solar radiation and low relative humidity on concrete may be more pronounced with increases in wind velocity (see Figure 1), and can lead to rapid evaporation of moisture, which is the primary cause of plastic shrinkage cracks in concrete.

Figure 1. Effect of Concrete and Air Temperatures, Relative Humidity and Wind Speed on the Rate of Surface Moisture Evaporation from Concrete



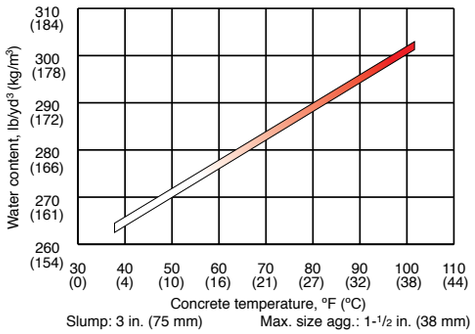
Source: ACI 305.1 Specification for Hot Weather Concreting

Potential Problems

The potential problems of hot weather can occur at any time of the year in warm tropical or arid climates and generally occur during the summer season in other climates. Problems associated with freshly mixed concrete placed during hot weather conditions include increased:

- Water demand (see Figure 2)
- Rate of slump loss and tendency for retempering
- Rate of setting (see Table 1)
- Difficulty in handling, placing, compacting and finishing
- Occurrence of plastic shrinkage cracking
- Amount of air-entraining admixture to entrain air
- Need for early curing
- Risk of cold joints

Figure 2. Effect of Concrete Mix Temperature on Water Requirement



Source: PCA, "Design and Control of Concrete Mixtures"

Table 1. Setting Time of Concrete at Various Temperatures

Temperature	Approximate Setting Time
100 °F (38 °C)	1 2/3 hours
90 °F (32 °C)	2 2/3 hours
80 °F (27 °C)	4 hours
70 °F (21 °C)	**6 hours**
60 °F (16 °C)	8 hours
50 °F (10 °C)	11 hours
40 °F (4 °C)	14 hours

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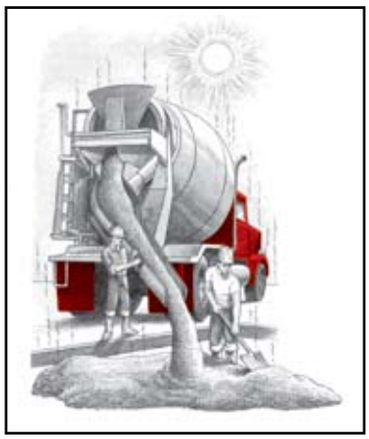
In hardened concrete, hot weather can increase:

- Drying shrinkage and differential thermal cracking
- Permeability

and decrease:

- Compressive and flexural strengths
- Durability
- Watertightness
- Uniformity of surface appearance



ACI 305R "Hot Weather Concreting", states that "concrete can be produced in hot weather without maximum limits on placing temperature and will perform satisfactorily if proper precautions are observed in proportioning, production, delivery, placing and curing. As part of these precautions, an effort should be made to keep concrete temperature as low as practical."

Concrete Temperature Control

Concrete temperature at the time of mixing is influenced by temperature, specific heat and quantity of its ingredients.The approximate temperature of freshly mixed concrete can be calculated from the following equation:

$$T = \frac{[0.22(T_s M_s + T_a M_a + T_c M_c) + T_w M_w + T_s M_{ws} + T_a M_{wa}]}{[0.22\,(M_s + M_a + M_c) + M_w + M_{ws} + M_{wa}]}$$

where:

T = final temperature of the concrete mixture

T_c, T_s, T_a and T_w = temperature of cement, fine aggregate, coarse aggregate and water, respectively

M_c, M_s, M_a, M_w, M_{ws} and M_{wa} = mass of cement, saturated surface-dry fine aggregate, saturated surface-dry coarse aggregate, mixing water, free water on fine aggregate and free water on coarse aggregate, respectively

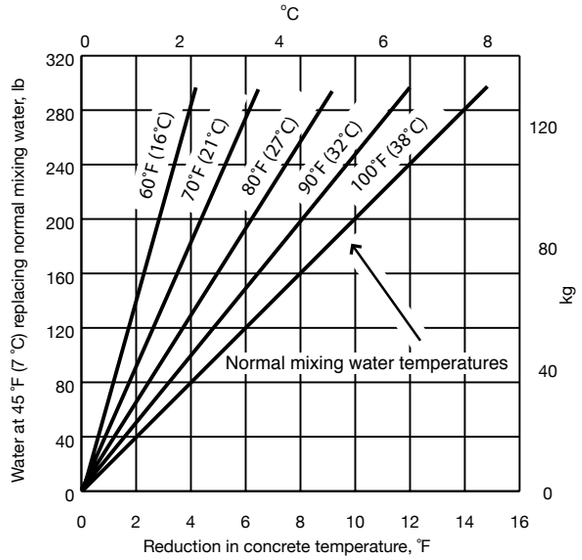
The temperature of concrete can be reduced by 1 °F (0.5 °C) by reducing:

- Cement temperature by 8 °F (4 °C)
- Water temperature by 4 °F (2 °C) (see Figure 3)
- Aggregate temperature by 2 °F (1 °C)

Of all concrete-making materials, water is the easiest to cool, and using ice as part of the mixing water will help reduce the concrete temperature. The amount of ice used must be included as part of the mix water and should not be more than approximately 75% of the amount of water required to meet the specified water-cementitious materials ratio. ACI 305R has additional guidelines for the use of ice in concrete. As coarse aggregate is the ingredient with greatest mass in concrete, changes in its temperature have a considerable effect on concrete temperature. The following measures will further help to control concrete temperature at the time of batching or during the hydration process:

- Sprinkling and spraying of aggregates with water
- Shaded storage of aggregates
- Use of liquid nitrogen
- Use of fly ash/slag cement
- Use of chemical admixtures (Pozzolith®, PolyHeed®, Delvo® Stabilizer, Delvo® ESC)
- Use of an evaporation reducer (Confilm®)

Figure 3. Effect of Cooled Mixing Water on Concrete Temperature



Source: ACI 305R, "Hot Weather Concreting"

The use of slower setting cements may improve the handling characteristics of concrete in hot weather. A 10 to 15 °F (5 to 8 °C) temperature rise per 100 lb (45 kg) of cement occurs from cement hydration. The temperature increase from cement hydration is directly proportional to its cement content.

Fly ash, other pozzolans and slag cement are used as partial replacements for portland cement and impart a slower rate of setting and strength development to concrete, both of which are desirable in hot weather concreting.

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The requirements to achieve good results in hot weather concrete placing and curing are not different from those for other seasons. Concrete should be placed where it will remain and in shallow layers to allow adequate vibration. It shall be protected using sunscreens, shades and wind breaks and protected from moisture loss. Adequate curing measures shall be undertaken.

Chemical Admixtures

Chemical admixtures conforming to ASTM C 494/C 494M Types B, Retarding; D, Water-reducing and retarding; F, High-range water-reducing; and G, High-range water-reducing and retarding, are beneficial for concrete placed during hot weather. Benefits obtained from these admixtures include:

- Reduced water demand - minimum 5%
- Improved workability during placing
- Slower rate of setting
- Lower rate of heat evolution
- Increased compressive strength
- Reduced friction among aggregates

BASF offers a wide range of admixtures that conform to ASTM C 494/C 494M for hot weather concreting, such as those listed in Table 2.

Table 2. Typical Performance Data
Concrete & Ambient Temperatures 90 °F (32 °C)

Product	ASTM C 494/ C 494M Designation	Dosage fl oz/cwt (mL/100 kg)	Setting Time Retardation vs. Plain Concrete (h:min)
Pozzolith100 XR Conventional water-reducing and retarding admixture	B & D	2 (130) 5 (330)	+2:30 +8:55
Delvo Stabilizer Hydration control admixture (liquid)	B & D	2 (130) 6 (390)	+0:45 +2:00
Delvo ESC* Hydration control admixture (dry formulation)	B & D	4 (260)* (1/4 puck)	+2:15**

** Delvo ESC Puck = 16 fl oz of Liquid Delvo Stabilizer*

*** Concrete and Ambient Temperatures 70 °F (21 °C)*

Your local sales representative will help you select the admixture that best serves your needs.

Miscellaneous Products

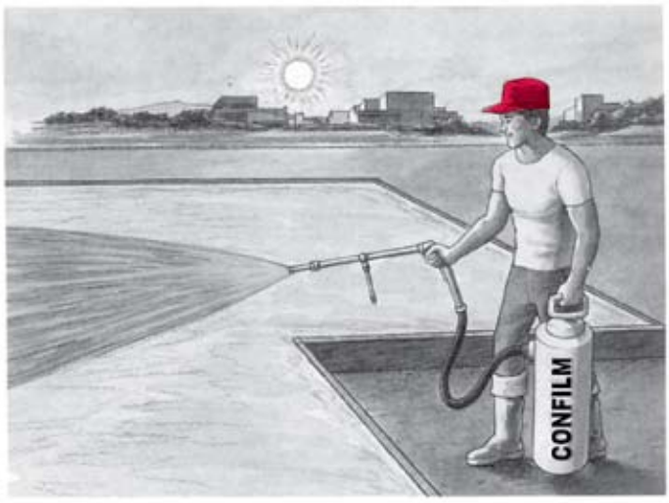
Polypropylene fibers (MasterFiber™) reduce the formation of plastic shrinkage cracks. In addition, these fibers:

- Improve impact, shatter and abrasion resistance
- Improve durability

The use of an evaporation reducer (Confilm)† will enhance the quality of the concrete. This monomolecular film:

- Reduces surface moisture evaporation
- Reduces crusting, plastic shrinkage cracks

† Note: Confilm is neither a finishing aid, nor a curing compound for concrete



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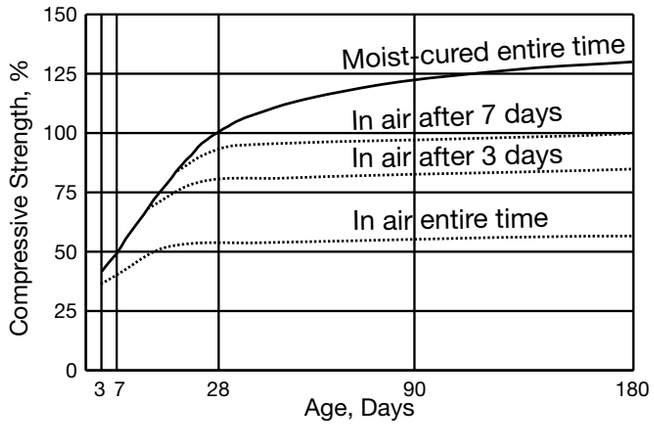
Curing

Curing is the maintenance of satisfactory moisture content and temperature in concrete during its early stages so that desired properties may develop (see Figure 4). The minimum recommended curing period is 7 days. Inadequate curing can cause plastic shrinkage cracking and impair strength development and durability.

Figure 4. Effect of Curing on Compressive Strength of Concrete



Source: ACI 306 R, "Cold Weather Concreting"

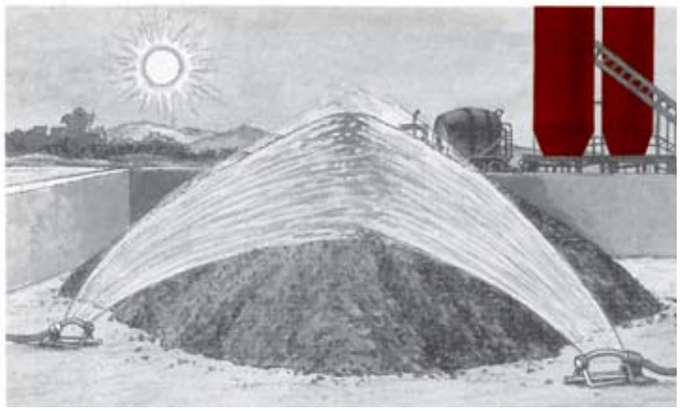
Methods of curing include:

1. Moist curing (ponding, continuous sprinkling and fogging)
2. Wet coverings (wet burlap, etc.)
3. Impervious paper and plastic sheets
4. Membrane-forming curing compounds

Solutions

Strength, durability and other desired properties of concrete can be obtained in hot weather through the use of the following techniques:

- Use of cool concrete ingredients
- Avoiding prolonged mixing of concrete materials
- Protection of materials and equipment from hot weather
- Good scheduling (plan hot weather placements)



Summary

Hot weather difficulties are chiefly caused by high concrete temperatures and rapid evaporation of water from concrete. These conditions adversely affect the quality of concrete since the rate of setting is accelerated, strength is reduced and cracks may occur in either the plastic or hardened state. Curing is more critical and air-entrainment more difficult to attain in hot weather. Field strength specimens are affected in the same manner as the concrete in place. If all precautions and recommended ACI 305R guidelines are followed, successful hot weather concreting can be achieved.

BASF has the products and technical expertise to assist the entire construction team (owners, specifiers, contractors, and ready-mixed concrete producers) in the design, manufacture, delivery, placement and curing of quality concrete in hot weather.

More Information

For further information or assistance, contact your local sales representative.

The Admixture Systems business of BASF Construction Chemicals is a leading provider of innovative admixtures for specialty concrete used in the ready mix, precast, manufactured concrete products, underground construction and paving markets throughout the North American region. The Company's respected Master Builders brand products are used to improve the placing, pumping, finishing, appearance and performance characteristics of concrete.

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Admixture Systems

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