

How to use The Garden of Glass glass products in DECORATIVE CONCRETE

Variations in the use of TGG Glass glass chips in decorative concrete are limited only by a user's imagination. How the glass is applied, the quantities of glass used, and the mixes of colors chosen can provide a unique and signatred decorative concrete product for those up to the challenge.

The most common applications of glass in decorative concrete are (1) seeding and (2) mixing integrally. First, the seeding concept:

Seeding glass means sprinkling, broadcasting, or spreading glass onto the surface of a concrete floor, slab, or other surface. The advantage of seeding glass is that the quantity of glass used is reduced relative to other methods. Also, you can continue to use a traditional 6-bag or other traditional concrete mix that you're used to and simply add the glass as a decorative accent to your project surface. The disadvantage to seeding is that it's tricky to uniformly spread the glass on your concrete surface. The steps involved in seeding glass are fairly straightforward:

Step 1: Prepare and place your concrete as you normally do.

Step 2: Bull float the concrete to smooth out the surface, but don't rough trowel or finish trowel your project.

Step 3: Spread the glass out evenly on your concrete surface using whatever quantity, colors, and mixes of glass that you desire.

Step 4: Lightly trowel the glass into the concrete gently pushing the glass into the still wet concrete mixture. Take care not to push the glass too far in or your finishing, grinding, and polishing process will take longer. Leave some of the higher glass tips on the surface or even sticking out of the concrete.

Step 5: Allow the concrete to cure for approximately seven days, depending on atmospheric conditions. Attempting to finish the surface too early will damage the surface. Finishing the surface too late will take much longer and will put undue wear on your finishing tools.

Note: From here, finishing methodologies differ by desired outcome of the project. Exposed aggregate, sandblasting, and other finishes are possibilities. We most frequently get questions about grinding, polishing, and sealing, so we'll proceed assuming that that finish is your desired result.

Step 6: Begin grinding the concrete surface with a 50 grit diamond grinding pad or similar taking care to wet the surface during the entire grinding process. Wetting the surface reduces the friction between the pad and the concrete reducing scratching and

scarring of the concrete. (The glass grinds uniformly with or without wetting.) Increase to a 100 grit, then 200 grit, and continue doubling the grit until you achieve the finish and polish you desire.

Step 7: Sweep, vacuum, and/or wash the surface (often with muriatic acid) to remove the finishing dust from the grinding and polishing process. Install the sealer of your choice carefully following the manufacturer's recommendation be it a shiny UV-resistant or a flat penetrating sealer.

Tip 1: Before step 3, some people use a retarding product on the surface to increase the working time. We haven't had experience with this step, so we highlight it simply as a consideration.

Tip 2: Use of an acrylic fortifier to the concrete mix helps with the adhesion of the concrete to the glass and other aggregates. Acrylic fortifiers can be found at any concrete supply place (including aisle 1 at Home Depot) and looks like a heavy milk or a liquid Elmer's glue. Not required, but helpful.

The second most common application is integral mixing. Integral mixing means replacing all or a portion of the aggregate in a concrete mixture with recycled glass chips. If you have your own proprietary mixture, simply subtract your original aggregate (pea gravel) amounts by weight by the amount of glass added to your mixture. The advantage of mixing integrally is that the glass aggregate mixes uniformly in the batch of concrete and is obviously uniformly segregated in the finished concrete product. The disadvantage is that much more glass is needed in a batch of concrete relative to seeding/broadcasting.

Step 1: Replace traditional aggregate content with TGG Glass recycled glass chips on a one-for-one basis by weight. That is, if a traditional 6-bag mix requires 100 lbs of aggregate per batch, replace all or a portion of the 100 lbs with glass. Mixing aggregate and glass 50/50 or any other percentage is fine. More glass provides a more colorful finish, less glass a more subtle color.

Step 2: Mix, pour, bull-float, rough trowel, and finish trowel the concrete.

Step 3: Follow steps 5, 6, and 7 above by allowing the concrete to cure, grinding and polishing it to the finish you desire, then sealing it with a good sealing product.

Tip 1: We always recommend adding our fine glass (ground glass minus 30mesh) to your mixture when glass aggregates are used. The silica in the fine glass chemically reacts well with the cement to better bond the concrete mixture to the glass. An acrylic fortifier helps as well, but the fine glass is highly recommended in this case.

Tip 2: We've used in the past a mixture as follows and have had reasonable success in limited applications:

Portland cement 25% by weight (plus a little more)

Glass fines 25% by weight

Glass chips (sizes #00 and #0) 25% by weight
Glass chips (sizes #1, 2, and #3) 25% by weight
Acrylic fortifier..... Per manufacturer's recommend

Tip 3: We don't recommend using our glass as a coloring agent. There are numerous companies that make concrete coloring products that will serve you much better than our products. Our fine glass is lighter in color and provides only a subtle color change rather than the deeper color change most customers seek. Our glass is great for subtle effects, not so great for deep effects.

Disclaimer: Information provided herein is for solely for information purposes to provide ideas and insights into how TGG Glass products might be utilized. No warranty or guaranty implied or otherwise is provided with this information. All users of this information shall verify the validity and applicability of this information for their application and situation. Licensed and accredited professional contractors are always highly recommended in using TGG Glass products. In short, we're trying to provide some helpful advice here without being accused of guaranteeing results, applicability, or usability. If you can do it, test it first. If you can't do it, hire someone who knows how. _ 2007 The Garden of Glass