

Concreter



Alternate title Concrete Worker

Description Concreters place, spread, compact, finish and cure concrete for buildings, roads, tunnels, bridges and marine structures, using hand tools, vibrators, pumps, trowelling machinery and other power tools.

For most jobs, concrete is mixed at a pre-mix concrete supplier's factory and delivered to the site in a pre-mix concrete truck. Concreters usually work outside on construction sites which may be dusty and noisy. Much of their time is spent standing or kneeling and they may also have to work at heights or underground in tunnels. Concreters may travel from job to job and usually begin work very early in the morning.

Typical duties

- mix cement, gravel, sand and water, etc., to make concrete on site;
- move concrete into position using a concrete pump;
- place concrete into the formwork (usually temporary wood or steel moulds), making sure that it is spread and levelled, then compacted using vibrators;
- operate paving and trowelling machines to float, trowel and polish the concrete surface;
- create different surface textures by tamping, smoothing and shaping the concrete surface with a variety of hand tools;
- cut joints into hardened concrete;
- mix and apply pigments when a coloured surface is required;
- dig foundation trenches if working on residential or small commercial projects.

Personal requirements

- physically fit as the work involves heavy lifting;
- enjoy practical work;
- enjoy outdoor work.

Qualification Certificate III in General Construction (Concreting/Steelfixing)

Entry pathway There are no specific educational requirements for entry to this occupation. Training is generally provided on-the job



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Job prospects Concrete workers are employed by building companies, local government authorities and building subcontractors. They may be self-employed.

Employment prospects depend on activity in the building industry which, in turn, is affected by the general state of the economy.

The vacancy level for Concreters is high. Vacancies arising from job changing (Concreters changing employers) are expected to provide 50 per cent of vacancies, compared with 45 per cent from job openings (Concreters leaving the occupation) and 5 per cent from new jobs.

Specialisation Concreters may specialise as concrete finishers or concrete slab layers. There are large differences in the work done by concreters working on high-rise buildings and those working on smaller residential and commercial buildings.

There is a growing industry in pre-cast concrete where concrete elements are cast and cured in factories and then transported to the site for use.

Related Jobs

- Construction Worker
- Road Worker

Further information

- Big Plans [www.bigplans.com.au/]
- Be Constructive [www.beconstructive.com.au/]