

Concrete, Cement and Mortar — Safe System of Work

Display a copy where the work is done.

Before you start

- Check you have waterproof gloves with long cuffs, waterproof trousers and knee protection.
- Check there is somewhere to wash with warm water and soap.
- Check formwork and falsework have been inspected before any pour.
- Agree the exclusion zone for pump lines.
- Know where the eye wash is.

The numbers that get checked

Item	Requirement	Why
pH of wet cement	Around 12 to 13	Oven cleaner territory. This is why it burns
Time to cause a burn	Can be under an hour of contact	And often without pain at the time
Eye irrigation	At least 20 minutes with clean water, then medical help	Do not stop early
Kneeling	Never directly in wet concrete	The classic full thickness burn
Trousers	Over the boots, never tucked in	Tucking in funnels the cement straight into the boot
Washing	Warm water and soap, as soon as contaminated	Not a rinse at the end of the day

While you are working

- Never kneel directly in wet concrete.
- Keep trousers over your boots, never tucked in.
- If cement gets inside a glove or boot, stop and wash immediately. Do not carry on.
- Wash contaminated skin as soon as it happens, not at the end of the day.
- Nobody under or inside formwork during a pour.
- Never clear a pump blockage while the line is under pressure.

Stop immediately if

- Cement gets inside your boots or gloves.
- You notice any redness, itching or a change to your skin.
- There is no warm water to wash with.
- Formwork moves, bulges or creaks during a pour.
- A pump line blocks.

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