



## Laying a Concrete Path



### Before You Start

1/ Mark out the size of the slab you require and multiply length (in metre's) by width (in metre's) by the decided thickness. From this volume you can calculate the number of Easy Mix Concrete bags you will need. Volume of slab in cubic metre's = no. of bags required.

2/ Check site levels and decide on the finished level of the slab, the water run-off and direction. Ensure drainage will not wash under the slab and undermine it.

### What You Will Need

- Tools
- Shovel and rake
- Spirit level
- String line
- Tape measure
- Timber for boxing and screed
- Screed board, trowel/float and edging tool
- Hammer, saw and nails

### Materials

..... bags of Easy Mix Pre-Blend Concrete  
Water

## Steps

### 1/ Prepare The Site

Dig the site for the slab to the required depth. Most slabs are a minimum of 75mm (3 inches).

### 2/ Set the Form work

Use lengths of timber to set up boxing for the finished slab. The top of the boxing will act as the level of the top of the slab. Remember your allowance for water run-off.

### 3/ Prepare to Pour

Just before pouring concrete, thoroughly moisten the slab base area. This slows down moisture loss during curing and makes the slab stronger. Welded reinforcing mesh may also be added for extra strength (seek advice from your hardware store).

### 4/ Mix Pre-blended Concrete

On a flat wooden or metal surface, or in a large wheelbarrow, mix pre-blended concrete with water, one or two bags at a time. Each bag requires about 3.5 litres of water. Add water slowly, mix thoroughly and do not wash out the cement powder. Shovel or pour the concrete into the form work, spread and tamp down with a shovel.

### 5/ Screed The Slab

Using a straight-edge board across the top of the form work, 'screed' the concrete to the desired level. Work the screed board across the slab from one end to the other in a sawing motion to bring the slab to its finished level. Fill any holes and screed again. Remove excess concrete if necessary. Leave the slab to set for 30 to 45 minutes before proceeding to Step 6.

### 6/ Finish The Slab

For a non-slip finish (or if tiling over the surface) use a wooden float in a circular motion across the slab. For a smooth finish a steel float should be used. Edges should be finished with an edging tool for best results.

### 7/ Curing Time

To help the slab cure to full strength, cover with Hessian, cloth or the Easy Mix bags and keep moist for seven days.

For more information about the Easy Mix Range of products please visit our website at [http://www.riversands.com.au/easymix\\_concrete.htm](http://www.riversands.com.au/easymix_concrete.htm)

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