

# MIKE WYE & Associates

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## Sand-based Lime Concrete - General Guidelines

***Lime concrete is mixed and placed in a different way from normal cement concrete, it is a semi dry consistency and should never be laid in a wet state. The material requires mechanical compaction and therefore the water content has a direct bearing on the placing.***

The lime concrete is mixed in the following ratios,

1 Part NHL5 : 1 Part sharp sand : 2 Parts 12 – 18 mm aggregate and approximately 5 – 6 litres of water per 50 kg of lime.

This is mixed in a nearly dry condition with only just sufficient water to allow the material to be bound in the hand. The water content is important for the purposes of placing.

The concrete is placed in a single layer of 50 mm, or 2 layers of 50 mm to make a 100 mm layer depending on purpose. 50mm will be sufficient for normal foot traffic and 100 mm for light vehicular traffic. When laid it will be about 20% greater in thickness than the finished desired level. It should be well rammed either by hand or with a mechanical compaction plate to the desired level.

As the work proceeds, it will be possible to lay the finish directly on to it.

Finishing mix, 25mm thick on a base of desired thickness, consisting of the following,  
1 Part NHL5: 2 Parts fine sharp sand.

This is mixed nearly dry again, just enough water to bind in the hand without being crumbly.

This is laid to spot levels or to rules on the green, freshly laid lime concrete base, beaten down and screed to level, after 1 hour it can be finished with a wood float and if a polish is required, a steel float about 1 hour later still. Scribing and lining out should be done after conducting a trial to determine the style of finish.

Exact water content will vary because of the retained moisture of the aggregates, however for finishing if the fine sand is used, this can be purchased kiln dry and a precise water content can be calculated.

Colour and style of finish is a function of the sand used.