

TOOLBOX TALK #7

WORKING SAFELY WITH WET CONCRETE



Workers who are exposed to or handle wet concrete may experience stinging pain, itching, swelling, blisters and more.

That's because wet concrete can cause skin irritation, and continuous contact with it can result in burns or allergic reactions, says CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training.

To protect your skin from wet concrete, you should wear:

- Long-sleeve coveralls
- Waterproof boots that are high enough to prevent concrete from getting inside
- Alkali-resistant gloves
- Eye protection

Remember to pull the long sleeves down and over the gloves and tuck your pants inside the boots. You can also use duct tape at the top of the boots to help keep concrete out. If you must kneel on fresh concrete, use a dry board or put on waterproof kneepads. These will serve as an additional barrier to protect your skin.

“If skin comes in contact with wet concrete, wash it immediately with pH-neutral soap and clean water,” CPWR recommends. “DO NOT use the water in the bucket. DO NOT use hand sanitizers.”

Here are some additional tips from CPWR on working safely with wet concrete:

- Use ready-mixed concrete instead of mixing the substance on site, when possible.
- Remove any jewelry, such as rings and watches, before beginning work. “Wet concrete can collect under them,” CPWR says.
- Wash your work clothes separately at home.