

Garden slabs made of architectural concrete are made by hand, which increases their value and makes each piece unique. The uneven distribution of colours and pores and pits of varying intensity and amounts on the surface are a reflection of the nature of concrete, testifying to the uniqueness of the product.

## INSTRUCTIONS AND RULES OF USE

1. Garden slabs are prefabricated elements designed for the construction of terraces, sidewalks, paths in private gardens and in public spaces. They were designed to enrich and diversify the landscaping possibilities. Garden slabs must not be used as structural elements, for carrying loads or for heavy vehicles. Proper selection as to the purpose and assembly of concrete slabs is a condition of their functionality and durability.

2. Upon delivery of the material, the Customer is obliged to check the condition of the received goods. Any objections to the quantity and quality of the goods must be reported to the point of sale before assembly. Slabs that have been assembled or in any way permanently adapted to the needs of the Customer are not subject to claims.

3. Assembly of slabs in accordance with the paving art will help the Customer to avoid errors that may later be difficult or even impossible to remove. Before starting the construction, a qualified paver or surveyor should check the condition of the subgrade and determine the method of preparation and construction of the subsoil, paying attention to the stability of the native soil and the degree of traffic. The soil layer should be thoroughly cleaned of plant roots using road machines. After trenching, the soil should be properly leveled, appropriate slopes should be created and adequate drainage should be ensured. After that the area should be leveled (using gravel or coarse sand) and compacted with a compactor, bearing in mind that a transverse slope of 2-3%, a longitudinal slope of 0.5% should be profiled accordingly. A prerequisite for the correct placement of concrete slabs is the execution of a sub-base layer of non-cohesive materials and compaction to an appropriate degree of compaction. The thickness of the sub-base layer depends on the type of substrate and the expected load. The bedding layer is levelled with a patch, maintaining appropriate slopes. The layer should not be compacted, because its task is to ensure good placement of the slabs and to eliminate any minor differences in the height of individual elements.

4. Slabs should not be laid too tightly, as concrete may be damaged, chipped or cracked. Slabs should be laid with a minimum of 3 mm expansion joints (grout). The tolerance of the product dimensions is 1%. The slabs should preferably be handled and laid with the use of a strapping tape, providing for one person two separate straps positioned under the bottom of the slab and released to a length that allows to grasp the belt in an upright position. Depending on the size of the slab, two or four people are needed for the assembly. Using the tape gives the possibility of repeatedly moving the slab to the desired position, and due to the small thickness of the tape after its removal, the slab will not move.

During assembly, mix slabs from different pallets. Uneven distribution of colours, textures, pores and pits distributed irregularly, of varying intensity and amounts on the surface are the result of the production process.

Concrete slabs are made of natural materials such as cement, sand, aggregate, which may differ in colour and thus affect fluctuations in the shade of the finished product. This may also be the case for slabs from one production batch.

Concrete slabs on the terrace can be laid on the ground, by means of wet bonding or on brackets in the technology of ventilated terraces.

Concrete slabs should be levelled by tapping them (not too hard) with a rubber hammer. Do not compact the laid surface with a mechanical vibrator, as it may damage the slabs. Do not allow slabs to get wet or dirty during installation. Keep the surfaces of the slabs clean to prevent staining. After laying, the joints should be filled and the excess sand removed.

A properly laid surface should be a flat surface without protrusions and gaps larger than the joints between the slabs. When walking on such a surface, there should not be any differences in height at the joints of the slabs.

5. The surface of concrete slabs should be swept and washed, regular care treatments will allow to preserve the aesthetic and functional qualities of the surface. Dirt, soil, sand or leaves should be regularly removed with a brush. We also recommend periodic (1-2 times a year) washing of the surface with water, preferably with a pressure washer, using not too much pressure. In the case of a larger contamination or a more difficult to remove, a mixture of water and dishwashing liquid in a ratio of 3:1 can be used. This does not mean, however, that this method guarantees the removal of contamination. Surface care also means regular removal of weeds that may appear between the slabs and the systematic re-grouting of the joints with sand when it has been washed out.

In winter, avoid removing snow or ice with sharp tools that may damage the concrete surface. Do not use de-icing agents, their use may contribute to changes in the colour of the concrete, and intensive use may cause peeling of the surface layer. Due to the fact that the slabs are pre-impregnated with resin, periodic inspections of the surface wear condition should be carried out with a frequency depending on the intensity of use and operating conditions.

In the case of visible changes on the surface in the form of cavities of impregnation or visible lack of effects of impregnation protection, the pavement should be preserved using the recommended chemicals. The factory protection protects surfaces during the first period of their use against dirt and discoloration if they are removed as quickly as possible using water and a neutral cleaning agent. The length of protection depends on many factors, such as the frequency of use, cleaning, sunlight and the intensity of precipitation. The chemical or physical impact of these external factors may require periodic renovation of the coating.

The pavement made of concrete slabs should be protected against stains from oil, car fluids, grease or tar and against other chemicals, cement-based agents, as well as against rust. Metal objects, e.g. wipers, which may rust or materials that absorb moisture should not be left on the surface of the slabs, because in the case of prolonged moisture, concrete slabs may become permanently discoloured.

Situations that may cause this type of stains on the concrete surface should be avoided, as they are particularly difficult to remove. If works are carried out on the pavement that may carry the risk of contamination, the surface should be protected first, e.g. by using foils and tapes. In case it gets contaminated or stained, the surface can be cleaned with special chemicals, according to the instructions on the packaging. Some agents may cause colour changes, therefore, before cleaning, a test should be carried out on a small and unexposed part of the surface.

Acid-based agents, strong alkalis and other chemicals that can react with concrete must not be used to clean the surface. Do not use pastes, detergents, abrasive cleaners.

Due to the fact that architectural concrete is a material resistant to abrasion, but quite brittle, attention should be paid to the type of load when using pavements made of concrete slabs. Heavy objects should not be dragged along the surface made of concrete slabs, and tools with sharp edges should not be used to clean or de-snow or de-ice the surface, as they may cause damage and scratches. Situations that may cause damage to surfaces caused by impact with heavy, especially metal objects, should be avoided.

When using garden furniture, their bases should be protected with a soft material protecting the surfaces of the slabs from scratches.