

Concrete Refinishing

There are 2 ways to finish a raw concrete slab.

- **Grind and seal**

The conventional way is to grind the surface using metal bonded diamonds on a variety of machines. This usually involves using 3 different grades of diamond discs.

- 1) A course grade for rapid removal of surface material.
- 2) An intermediate grade to remove the scratches made by the course disc.
- 3) Usually a 100 – 120 grit disc for smooth finishing.

This surface is then coated with a sealer, usually an acrylic sealer, either water or solvent based. Epoxies can be used, but tend to show scratches more rapidly. (Never use polyurethane, as they are not compatible with concrete). These sealers can be a matt finish, a semi gloss or high gloss.

Matt is a more natural finish, while a high gloss shows more marks.

The difference with the solvent and water based sealers is that the solvent will give a darker and clearer finish, while the water based sealers will give a lighter, more opaque finish.

Pros – cheaper initially, quicker, can be used outside with an antislip additive in the sealer.

Cons – Requires resealing every 3-5 years, marks more easily.

- **Polished Concrete** (warning - some people refer to grind and seal as polished concrete)

The second way follows the same grinding process as the former, and then incorporates an integral sealer. This integral sealer penetrates into the surface of the concrete, reacts with the lime and forms a gel that swells in the pores of the concrete. This gel then hardens and becomes permanently fused within the concrete. The result is a hardening by approx 42% of the surface, a water and dust proof surface with increased abrasion resistance.

This surface is then polished with increasingly finer grades of resin bonded diamond discs. The finer the final disc, the more natural sheen the surface has.

The grades include 100, 200, 400 (these are matt finish), then 800, 1500 (these are semi gloss) and finally 3000 grit which borders on gloss. If a high gloss is desired, a maintenance coating of polish can be applied, which can be periodically buffed to maintain the high gloss.

Pros – Better scratch resistance, more natural finish, does not require resealing.

Cons - Takes a little longer to complete, costs more initially, can not be used outside.

Indicative rates – based on 100SqM of new concrete. *Subject to change without notice, every job priced individually.*

Grind and seal -	From - \$65/SqM + GST
Polished concrete – 200 Grit (ultra matt)	From - \$70/SqM + GST
400 Grit (matt)	From - \$80/SqM + GST
800 Grit (semi gloss)	From - \$85/SqM + GST
1500 Grit (semi gloss)	From - \$90/SqM + GST
3000 grit (gloss)	From - \$95/SqM + GST