



Blue Hawk Multi-Purpose Concrete

Product Data Sheet

Introduction

Overview

Blue Hawk Multi-Purpose Concrete is a versatile concrete, suitable for use in a wide range of building projects. The packs contain Blue Hawk Portland Cement together with washed sand and stone aggregate. The cement is contained in a separate polythene bag within the pack to provide longer storage life.

Applications

Blue Hawk Multi-Purpose Concrete is suitable for use on paths, ponds, rockeries, drives, garage and shed bases plus general repair work on concrete surfaces.

Note: Blue-Hawk Multi-Purpose Concrete is not suitable for house foundations.

Product	Pack size	Coverage per bag	Coverage at 75mm depth	Coverage at 100mm depth
Blue Hawk Multi-Purpose Concrete	20kg	0.0088m ³	0.12m ²	0.88m ²

Bag size	Thickness coverage	Number of bags required to cover 1m ²	Number of bags required to cover 2m ²	Number of bags required to cover 3m ²
20kg	75mm	9 - 10	17 - 18	26 - 27
	100mm	11 - 12	23 - 24	34 - 35

Installation

Background preparation

All surfaces to be worked should be free from oil, grease and any loose material. Prepare the site by laying a bed of at least 80mm of compacted hardcore as a base. On top, set out a strong timber framework ensuring that it is well secured using strong steel or wooden pegs. The depth of the framework should be equal to the thickness of concrete required. It should also be level or if so required, given adequate drainage fall.

Mixing

Empty the sand and cement onto a clean solid surface and ensure that the entire contents are well mixed together. Slowly add cold water until the desired consistency is achieved. It is advised that, once mixed, it is used within 30 minutes. Do not over-water as this can affect the set and weaken the mix.

General application

Carefully place the mixed concrete into the framework, ensuring that the concrete fills all the corners and edges. Level the concrete with a straight edge, and whilst moving it backwards and forwards across the framework, lightly tap the straight edge. This is known as tamping and helps to remove air pockets as well as ensuring the material is lightly compacted. For repair work, dampen the background and apply the mix with firm pressure.

The recommended minimum thickness for concrete paths to be used for foot traffic only is 75mm. For concrete driveways laid on well compacted hardcore foundations which are intended for use by vehicles, then 100mm is the recommended minimum thickness.

Blue Hawk Multi-Purpose Concrete should achieve a minimum compressive strength of 20N/mm² in a 28 day period.

Finishing

Drying

Always protect newly laid concrete from the weather until fully hardened. Allow 48 hours before the area can take any weight (7 days for driveways).

Minimum temperature: Ambient and background temperature must be maintained above 5°C until fully dry.

Conditions

Effect of condensation and other moisture: Concrete strengths are improved by keeping the hardened concrete damp.

Effect of temperature: Application temperature: +5°C to +40°C.

Storage

Blue Hawk Multi-Purpose Concrete should be stored in dry conditions and protected from extremes of temperature of below 5°C or above 40°C during storage. The container should always be kept airtight.

If stored on concrete flooring then timber platforms should be provided.

Sacks are marked with a “Manufactured” date and when stored correctly Blue Hawk Multi-Purpose Concrete, under the Chromium (VI) Directive, has a shelf life of 6 months from the manufacturing date indicated on the packaging. Each sack is marked with a batch number for manufacturing traceability purposes.

Standards

Artex Limited is a quality assured company and operates a Quality Management System in accordance with **BS EN ISO 9001:2008**. The QMS is independently audited (certificate no: **FM 504548**).

Manual handling

It is important to observe appropriate Health and Safety legislation when working on site, e.g. protective clothing and equipment, etc. In practice, consideration must be given to design criteria requiring specific project solutions.

Blue Hawk Multi Purpose Concrete should be always carried using correct manual handling techniques and safe systems of work appropriate to the size and length of the product. Some of these guidelines are summarised below. For further guidance, please refer to the Manual Handling section of the British Gypsum **SITE BOOK** and the British Gypsum Manual Handling Guide. Both can be downloaded from **www.british-gypsum.com** or can be obtained by calling the British Gypsum Technical Advice Centre on 0844 800 1991.

- Whenever possible, place one foot in front of the other to produce a good base and reduce the pressure on the body.
- Assess the load by placing your hand on it and moving.
- Only handle what you feel you can manage.
- Initiate movements with your legs, unlocking the knees and driving with the legs to start the lift.
- Keep the load as close to your body as possible when lifting or handling.
- Turn instead of twisting and move your feet.
- Let your back find its natural curvature.
- Never lose control of the load.

Loading and unloading pallets

- Always wear safety shoes.
- Always place one foot forward by operating from the corner of the pallet or placing one foot on the pallet taking care to ensure that the pallet does not tip in the process.
- Unlock the knees for low level work.
- Take a firm grip of the load with both hands.
- Lift using the legs to start the movement.
- Turn by moving the feet.

Application and installation

- Always work in a balanced position.
- Operate with one foot forward.
- Keep the body upright.
- Always use appropriate platforms where necessary.

General notes

In practice, consideration must be given to design criteria requiring specific project solutions. Please contact the British Gypsum Technical Advice Centre for further guidance on 0844 800 1991 or at bgtechnical.enquiries@bpb.com

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For a comprehensive and up-to-date library of information visit the British Gypsum website at: www.british-gypsum.com

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FM 504548

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