# Unit 112: Construction operations and civil engineering operations

# Worksheet 32: Concrete finishes (tutor)

The finish of concrete will depend very much on the situation and to what usage the concrete will be put. For example, it would not be sensible to give a driveway, particularly on an incline, a polish finish as this could cause problems during frosty weather.

1. From the descriptions given below, name the type of finish in the space provided.

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| Description | Type of finish |
| This will give a polished finish to concrete and is used when a level finish is necessary to receive a floor covering, such as thermoplastic tiles or high-quality carpeting. The time to finish concrete using this finish will depend on the mix, whether it is laid indoors or outdoors, the weather etc.  If this finish is applied too soon then marks will be left on the surface which are known as 'tramlines'. If, however, it is left too late it will be very difficult to obtain a good finish. | Steel float / Smooth |
| Used when a polished finish is not required. This will produce a slightly rough surface but is very effective as marks are very rarely left with no danger of 'tramlining' taking place. This finish is normally used on such items as beams, small plinths, bases etc., or sometimes used to rub up. | Wood / Plastic float |
| This is the finish that is usually given to concrete surfaces that are liable to take heavy vehicle traffic such as roadways, driveways etc. The action of gentle tamping will leave small upstands of concrete close together, giving a better grip when vehicles are braking, particularly in frosty weather. | Tamped |
| This is a very popular and attractive finish, especially for drives. On completion of the concreting, a stiff broom is very carefully drawn across the surface, taking care to keep lines as straight as possible. | Brushed / Broom |