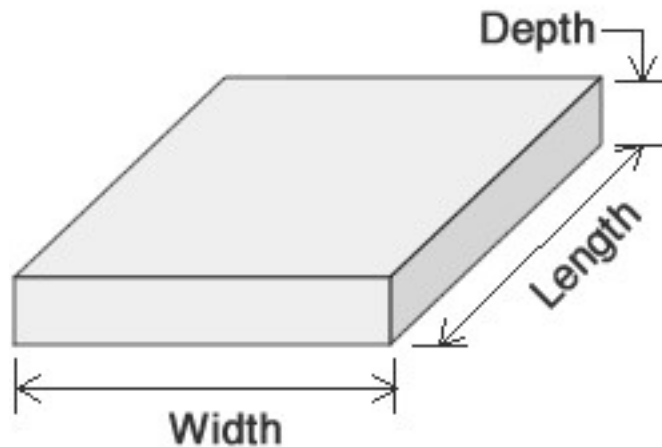


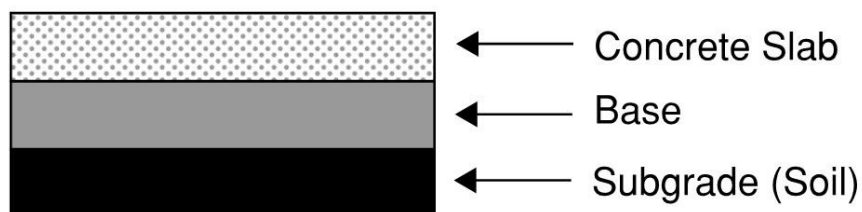
WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE REQUESTING A CONCRETE QUOTE

Below are a few things that should be considered prior to requesting a quote for concrete work. If you have any questions about what is right for your project, feel free to contact us to discuss.

- Area / Volume of concrete – This is obvious, but it needs to be determined prior to the estimator's arrival or at least during their visit so they can measure the area. Once the area is determined, the Owner will need to know how thick they want the concrete. Typical thicknesses are 4" with standard wire mesh for pedestrian traffic, 5" with intermediate mesh for vehicular traffic and 6" with heavy mesh for heavy traffic such as commercial vehicles.

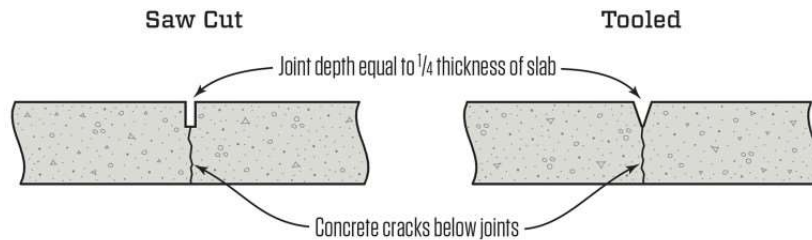


- Strength of concrete – Once cured for 28 days, concrete is rated to resist pressure in terms of pounds per square inch (PSI). Typical strengths are 3,000 psi for foundations, 4,000 psi for slabs, walks and driveways, 4,500-5,000 for heavy duty driveways. With increased strength comes increased cost.
- Base – Below the slab is a pad of gravel (2B limestone). The 2B stone has enough voids so water isn't held in the Base which would lead to freeze damage. The thickness of the Base should be equal to the thickness of the concrete and should be seated with a flat plate compactor prior to placement of the concrete.

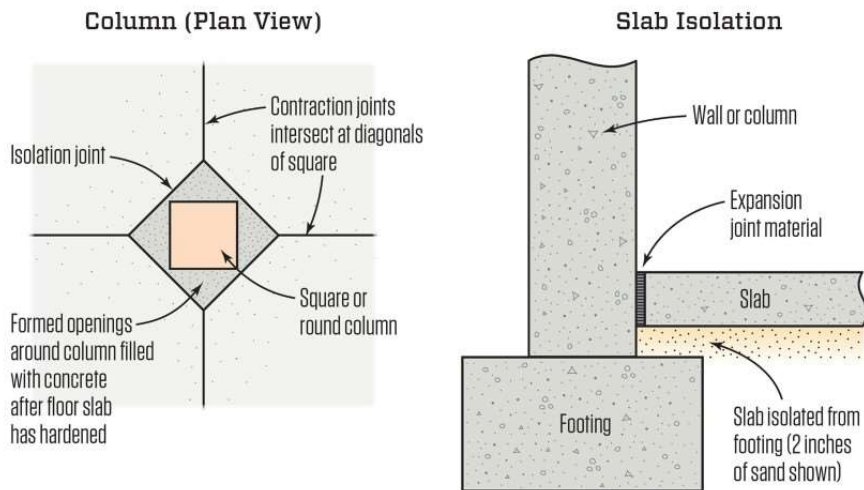


- Joints – There are two types of joints: Expansion joints and contraction joints. These joints help resist cracking due to thermal expansion / contraction. These joints should always be tooled in driveways and walks for an improved appearance. The Owner should have an idea of the spacing of these joints and be prepared to discuss it with the estimator. The Owner will also need to decide if the expansion joints will be caulked or left exposed.

Contraction (or Control) Joints



Expansion (or Isolation) Joints



- Finish – There are many finish options available ranging in cost. Most sidewalks and driveways are broom or float finished and standard gray color. Floor slabs are steel trowel finished smooth. Patterns can be stamped into the concrete as well as numerous color options. Exposed aggregate is a different look, but not as popular today as in the past.



- Demolition and Disposal – The Owner will need to let the estimator know if the existing concrete (If Any) will need to be removed and disposed of. This usually involves hammering the existing concrete into small enough pieces that a clean fill will accept it and hauling off site in a dump truck.
- Lawn Restoration – The Owner will also need to let the estimator know if they want the proposal to include lawn restoration after the work is done. Some homeowners prefer to do this themselves while others want a turnkey project without getting their hands dirty.



These are the basic requirements for putting together the cost of a residential concrete project. Having the answers to these questions will make the site visit go smoothly and result in a faster turnaround for the proposal.