

NO FINISHES REQUIRED



Concrete can be used as a final finish, and doesn't need to be covered with paint or other materials. This supports sustainable construction by helping lower material usage and reducing future maintenance needs.

Using concrete as a final finish for ceilings, walls, floors and other surfaces reduces the need for sealants, coatings, carpets and other finishes. It also gives you almost unlimited design freedom to explore textures, colours and visual appearances.

A wide range of highly durable, low maintenance concrete finishes are possible – for example burnished, polished, textured or left raw. At the same time, different coloured aggregates and pigments provide a near infinite range of colours and design look.

According to studies, internal finishes and external facades can account for a very significant proportion (20% and ~15% respectively in the case of housing) of the total embodied emissions associated with common building types¹. So, using an off form concrete soffit instead of a suspended ceiling, or off form concrete walls and burnished floors, can provide a very worthwhile saving in materials and carbon emissions.

In fact, it's estimated that 'designing out' suspended ceilings could save up to six tonnes of material for every 1,000m² of floor space¹. Future savings can also be realised by avoiding the cost and need of replacing suspended ceilings, which typically have a lifespan of around 24 years.

As concrete subfloors are already a standard requirement in most buildings, it can make good sense to use the concrete as the finished surface, avoiding the need for additional coverings such as tiles, lino or carpet. Not only can this significantly reduce the materials needed, it helps reduce landfill during construction and at end-of-life. (Site wastage during construction can be high, reaching about 20% for carpet.)

[1] [LETL Climate Emergency Design Guide January 2020 Edition](#).

**SUSTAINABLE
FOR LIFE**

www.futureproofwithconcrete.com.au

Since the information provided is intended for general guidance only and in no way replaces the services of professional consultants on particular projects, no legal liability is accepted by Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia for its use and/or reliance on it by any person.

Concrete.
FUTUREPROOF
your build™