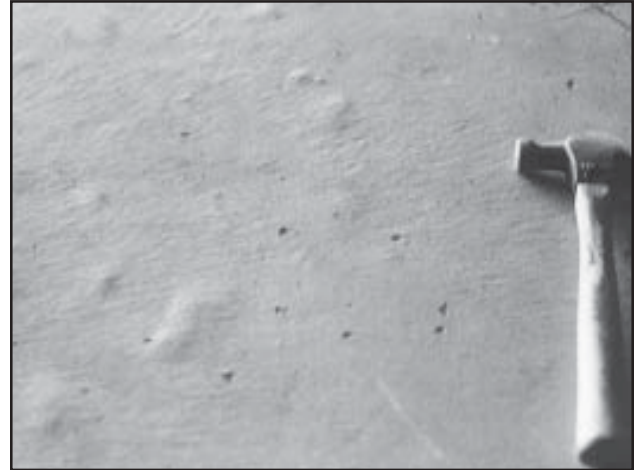


5. The slab is thick.
6. The slab is on polyethylene and the slump is less than 3 or 4 inches.
7. Excessive use of a jitterbug or a vibrating screed, which works up a thick mortar layer on top.

HOW to Prevent Blisters

The finisher should be wary of a concrete surface that appears to be ready to trowel before it would normally be expected to be. Emphasis in finishing should be on placing, straight edging and floating the concrete as rapidly as possible and without working up an excessive layer of fat. After these operations are completed, further finishing should be delayed as long as possible and the surface covered with polyethylene or otherwise protected from evaporation. In initial floating, the float blades should be flat to avoid densifying the surface too early. Use of an accelerator or heated concrete often prevents blisters in cool weather.



If blisters are forming, try to either flatten the trowel blades or tear the surface with a wood float and delay finishing as long as possible. Any steps that can be taken to slow evaporation should help.

Follow These Rules to Avoid Blisters

1. Do not seal surface before air or bleed water from below has escaped.
2. Avoid dry shakes on air-entrained concrete.
3. Use heated or accelerated concrete to promote even setting throughout the depth of the slab.
4. Do not place slabs directly on polyethylene sheeting.

San Jose Civic Center, 2004
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