

## New Home Concrete Check List

You have just made perhaps the largest purchase of your life, and with any good investment it begins with a good *foundation*.

Concrete (cast-in-place, ready mixed) is the most widely used foundation material, as it provides ease in construction, durability and long life. It is used in above-grade and below-grade walls and floors, garage slabs, patios, pools, steps, driveways, and sidewalks.

Ontario Building Code (Part 9 – Housing & Small Buildings) specifies minimum specifications as to home basement construction, and any concrete used in your home is referenced under Section 9.3.1.1. Concrete – “Concrete shall be designed, mixed, placed, cured and tested in accordance with CSA – A438-M, ‘Concrete Construction for Housing & Small Buildings’”.

The following Check List will help you understand the concrete portion of your purchase.

<b>OBC Application</b>	<b>Class/Strength (compressive)</b>	<b>Slump (flow)</b>
Footings etc.	15 MPa minimum	150 mm maximum
Basement Floors, etc	15 MPa minimum+ vapor barrier *	150 mm maximum
Basement Walls	15 MPa minimum	150 mm maximum
Garage Floors, Driveways, etc.	Class C-2 35 MPa	0.45 W/CM

*\*OBC states that 25 MPa can be used with no vapor barrier in lieu of 15 MPa including a vapor barrier.*

1. Ask your builder to provide product delivery tickets to ensure proper concrete mix designs where used in:

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
a) Footings	___	___
b) Floors	___	___
c) Walls	___	___
d) Garage	___	___

2. Excessive cracking in exterior walls and floor slabs could be a result of excessive amounts of water being added to the concrete by the contractor to make it easier to place (shrinkage), or no precautions taken to ensure minimum occurrences.

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Noticed	___	___
Signed for on ticket	___	___

Note: Cracking in walls could also be a result of improper or pre-mature backfilling procedures.

3. The Ready Mixed Concrete Association of Ontario (RMCAO) has a “Performance Rated Concrete” Program (PRC) designed to provide the homebuilder with concrete to meet whichever OBC specification is required. Ask your builder for his documentation on his use of PRC.

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
PRC used	___	___

### **Summary:**

Concrete in your home should offer you a great investment. If there are any questions, please contact us at [homeowner@rmcao.org](mailto:homeowner@rmcao.org)