



Slab Protection by Others

CPC Position Statement #1

Polished concrete is an architectural finish that combines diamond grinding, honing, and polishing to produce a smooth surface that is durable, light reflective, and easy to maintain. Achieving this finish and delivering the final product to the owner requires protection of the concrete surface:

- After initial slab placement (post-placement); and
- After polishing is complete (post-polishing).

There may be an expectation that the post-placement and post-polishing protection will be provided by polishing contractors. But that expectation will not be realized because the polishing contractor is not on site when the concrete slab is placed and leaves the site after the slab is polished. Thus, polishing contractors are not present during the needed protection periods.

In addition, protection of the concrete surface requires authority to control the activities and schedule of other follow-on trades. Polishing contractors don't control the other trades because they do not have this contractual authority. Nor do they have responsibility for the other trades' personnel, schedule, or work.

Thus, post-placement and post-polishing slab protection must be provided by an organization that meets the following requirements:

- It is on site after initial slab placement and until the building is turned over to the owners; and
- It has the responsibility and authority to control the activities and schedule of other trades.

The construction manager, general contractor, or possibly the owner are the only members of the construction team that meet the requirements for providing protection of the slab. Concrete Polishing Council (CPC) contractors do not meet either of the two requirements. CPC polishing contractors often include "protection by others" clauses in their specifications and contracts to indicate that they are not responsible for that work.

Upon request, CPC polishing contractors can assist construction managers, general contractors, and owners in developing an appropriate Concrete Floor Protection Plan (CFPP) for both post-placement and post-polishing slab



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protection. Signage, as shown, can be an effective part of jobsite implementation of the CFPP. In addition, other trade contractors can have language in their subcontracts requiring them to adhere to the CFPP.

Alternatively, the slab could be specified to be placed late in the schedule so there are minimal protection issues. Although this will slightly increase the cost and schedule, this may be the best approach as it may be difficult to protect the slab during construction. However, this choice is best made by the owner in consultation with the design and construction team.

CPC polishing contractors will cooperate with general contractors, construction managers, and owners in developing a CFPP for each specific application. However, the postplacement and post-polishing slab protection are the responsibility of other parties. If you have any questions, contact your CPC polishing contractor or the CPC Technical Hotline at (888) 483-5288 or at cpchotline@asconline.org.



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