



Best Practices: Clean Slurry to Ensure Strong Bond

Phoscrete forms both a chemical and a mechanical bond to clean, sound, dry concrete that stays strong and lasts long with no cold joints.

Since OSHA published standards to protect construction workers from exposure to respirable crystalline silica, state DOTs and concrete repair contractors changed their concrete repair installation processes. One directive is to use an integrated water delivery system for concrete sawing whether indoors or outside in order to minimize dust.

Because Phoscrete mixes with a Liquid Activator instead of water, the slurry residue left behind after a wet sawcut weakens the bond to the Phoscrete repair. A weak bond between the substrate and Phoscrete can cause delamination. Independent movement of the repair and the adjacent substrate when subjected to load transfers from heavy duty vehicular traffic can result in cracks in the repair material, further delamination, and subsequent spalling. Delamination due to wet slurry typically occurs in the first 30 days following installation of Phoscrete. *Perform a hammer sounding test or chain drag to verify the Phoscrete bond 30 minutes following initial set.*

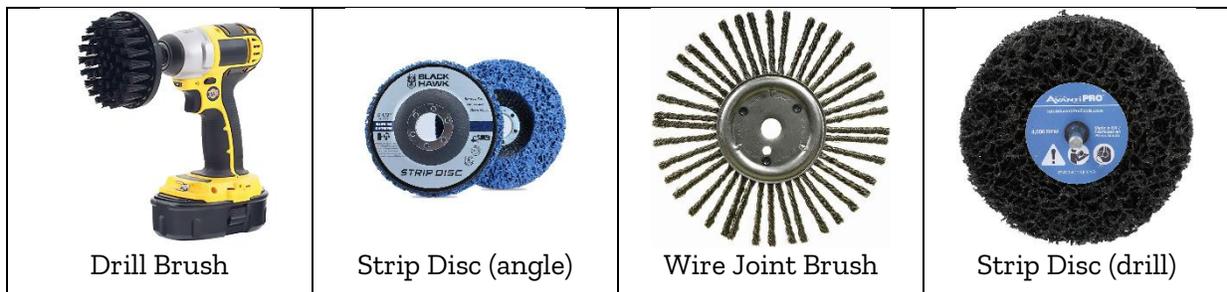
Proper site preparation is the first step to mitigate the effects of wet slurry concrete repairs. Prior to placement of wet Phoscrete, take steps to ensure the substrate is clean, dry, and free of any residue. Wipe your gloved finger along the surface to check for slurry or other residues such as oil or asphalt from traffic or previous repairs.

Use a hard bristle nylon or wire brush to scrub the substrate edges and horizontal surface clean. Aggressive scrubbing with a handheld brush works well on small repairs. For larger repairs (and small), use a nylon or wire brush attachment for a drill or rotary tool/angle grinder.

Use a propane torch (grass burner) to ensure the substrate surface is dry at the interface before installing Phoscrete. Be careful to only "kiss" the surface with the torch to evaporate the surface moisture. Prolonged exposure to temperatures of 1,000°F (500°C) weakens the compressive strength of the concrete substrate.

Finally **brush, blow, or vacuum the surface** to clear the prepared site of dust particles.

Phoscrete recommends these styles of brushes/discs for our installers. Some work with drills and others with angle grinders.



This information and all further technical advice are based on Phoscrete's present knowledge and experience. However, Phoscrete assumes no liability for providing such information and advice. Our limited warranty notice is posted in our technical data guides and published on our website. Please also review our installation guidelines, technical data and safety data sheets published on our website. If you have questions, contact your local Phoscrete representative or call our corporate offices for application advice, installation assistance, and for recommendations about these tools and where to purchase.