

# Mix and lay concrete

## What you will learn

When you have finished the workbook sections in this module on mixing and laying concrete, you should be able to:

- ☐ Work out the size of a job and how much concrete you need
- ☐ Get the ground ready for a concrete slab
- ☐ Build formwork
- ☐ Mix concrete by hand — and in a mixer
- ☐ Pour and compact concrete
- ☐ Level and finish concrete
- ☐ Let concrete cure correctly.

## Things you need before you start

### Tools or equipment

You will need tools to mix and to lay concrete:

measuring and marking tools



spade, shovel, pick



timber for formwork



mixer, bucket or measure



wheelbarrow



screed, float and finishing trowel



hose or water can and polythene sheets



### Course resources

Course video. This shows you concrete being mixed, laid and levelled.



# How do we make and lay concrete

Here are the main steps to make and lay concrete.

Each step is covered in more detail in a workbook section later.

**Concrete is a mix of sand, cement, stone/rock and water.**



They are mixed in different amounts for different jobs

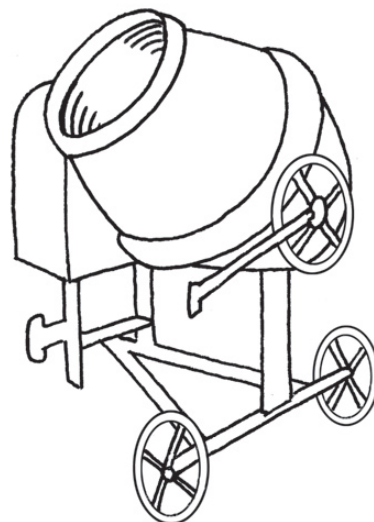
## MIX together

to make concrete

by hand



or in a mixer



## **POUR the concrete**

into a prepared site



## **COMPACT the concrete**

to make sure it fills all the spaces and get air bubbles out



## **LEVEL the concrete**

to get a flat surface.

And *finish* it to get a smooth surface



## **Finally CURE the concrete**

keep it damp for a time while it gets hard



# Now work through each workbook section

## Each section shows

How to do that step

## Your tutor will show you:

- examples of tools and equipment
- how to use the tools to work the concrete
- the dangers to watch out for — and the safe way to do things.

## You will:

- Practise mixing and pouring
- Mix, lay and finish concrete on a project or real job
- Work in groups of 2 or 3 people.
  - talk to each other
  - help each other to get things right
  - check that others are doing things safely.