



## Grout Finishing

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All Five Star® precision grouts are expansive which helps them maintain contact with the bottom of the baseplate as they harden. This attribute provides the user with the best option to ensure that if the grout is in contact with the equipment prior to setting, this contact will be maintained as the grout hardens.

Optimal grout placement requires that the grout ends up flush with the bottom of the baseplate when it hardens. This allows for total contact between the grout and the baseplate completely transferring the load to the foundation that the component being grouted supports or generates. Once the grout is installed, it is critical that the height of the grout be monitored and adjusted until the grout takes an initial set.

When grout is installed (poured or pumped), it is often difficult to get the volume required correct because the grout naturally settles and self-levels as it flows to all ends of the formwork. Five Star recommends installing slightly more grout than is necessary to maintain contact with the bottom edge of the baseplate and then finishing the grout to be flush with the bottom of the baseplate. It is always preferable to err on the high side and have the grout end up slightly higher than the bottom of the baseplate than to have the grout not be in contact with the component being grouted. It is for this reason that some placement specifications recommend installing the grout above the bottom edge of the baseplate.

If installed properly, grout should require very little finishing. Finishing the grout in the grout shoulders typically involves striking or screeding excess material off and then troweling the surface to the desired finish. These leveling and finishing steps should only be done if the installer is confident that the grout is done flowing out to the confines of the forms and has settled such that it is in contact with the bottom of the baseplate.

### A. CEMENTITIOUS Grout Finishing

When cementitious grout has stiffened to the point that it will hold its shape when scored with the point of a trowel, the grout may be finished. Finish the grout shoulder with a trowel, float, or brush finish, as desired. Care should be taken not to overwork the material. Overworking the material will result in poor surface quality; as a rule, the less the material is worked the better. It is also at this point that the forms can be removed if the installer plans to cut the chamfers in the grout.

#### **Cementitious** Grout Finishing Steps:

Strike or screed to level grout → Trowel/finish grout → Observe grout → Cure grout

### B. EPOXY Grout Finishing

Epoxy grout has a very short window of time in which it is workable. The amount of time available is highly temperature dependent. The warmer the temperature the shorter the window. If the temperature of epoxy grout is below 70°F (21°C), set time will be delayed. Chamfers must be incorporated into the formwork because there is insufficient time between the initial set and the time in which the epoxy can no longer be worked to shape the grout. Epoxy grout should be finished with a steel trowel that has been treated with an oil (i.e., vegetable oil, WD-40). NOTE: The oil should not be placed directly on the epoxy grout. Overworking epoxy grout is generally not a problem because you typically only have one opportunity to finish it.

#### **Epoxy** Grout Finishing Steps:

Trowel grout to level and finish it → Observe grout

Refer to Five Star® Technical Bulletin 410 Grout Formwork and Five Star® Technical Bulletin 411 Grout Shoulder Configurations and for further guidelines.

For additional information, contact your local Five Star® Technical Sales Representative.

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**FIVE STAR PRODUCTS, INC.**  
2 Enterprise Drive • Suite 303  
Shelton, CT 06484 USA  
Phone: +1 203-336-7900