



Concrete Driveway Installation Checklist

A comprehensive site prep, reinforcement, and pour day guide for contractors & homeowners.

Project Address:

Pour Date/Time:

Inspector/Owner:

Contractor: Sacramento Concrete Contractors

Phone: (877) 845-5360

Office Address: 1720 N St, Sacramento, CA 95811

Website: sacramentoconcretecontractors.com

PHASE 1 Pre-Pour Site Preparation (Excavation & Base)

Run this checklist before the concrete truck arrives. Poor base preparation is the leading cause of cracked, sinking slabs.

- ☐ **Topsoil and Organic Matter Removal**
Verify all grass, sod, roots, topsoil, and loose organic matter have been excavated.
- ☐ **Soil Compaction (Subgrade)**
Ensure the underlying soil has been compacted to at least 95% relative density using a vibratory plate compactor or rammer. There should be no soft spots or shifting mud.
- ☐ **Geotextile Fabric (If Applicable)**
In clay-heavy or highly expansive soils, verify that a geotextile separation fabric has been laid down to prevent the aggregate base from sinking into the clay.
- ☐ **Gravel/Crushed Stone Base (Subbase)**
Verify a minimum of 4 inches (preferably 6 inches) of crushed granite or gravel base has been installed and thoroughly compacted.
- ☐ **Drainage Slope**
Verify that the subbase has been graded with a minimum slope of 1/8 inch per foot (1% slope) away from the house foundation and garage toward the street.
- ☐ **Vapor Barrier (If Applicable)**
For driveways that double as carport floors or transition directly to garage entrances, verify a 4-mil to 10-mil polyethylene vapor barrier is placed to prevent groundwater wicking.

Verified By: _____ Date: _____

PHASE 2 Formwork, Grades, and Reinforcement

Ensure the structural frame and internal steel grid are securely positioned.

- ☐ **Formwork Alignment and Stability**
Verify the wood or steel forms are straight, level, and staked at least every 3 to 4 feet to prevent bowing or blowout under the heavy weight of concrete.
- ☐ **Slab Thickness Check**
Measure from the top of the formwork to the compacted gravel base at multiple points. Ensure a minimum depth of 4 inches (residential cars) or 5 to 6 inches (RVs/heavy trucks).
- ☐ **Thickened Edges**
Verify that a perimeter trench (1 to 2 inches deeper and 4 to 8 inches wide) has been dug along the outer margins of the driveway.
- ☐ **Rebar Grid Setup**
Verify that Grade 60 steel rebar (#3 or #4 diameter) has been laid in a grid pattern (12 to 18 inches spacing) and tied securely.
- ☐ **Rebar Chairs/Supports**
Verify that the rebar grid is supported on concrete bricks or metal chairs. The steel must sit in the center or upper-middle of the slab, not resting on the gravel.
- ☐ **Isolation Joints**
Ensure that 1/2-inch pre-molded expansion joint filler is installed at all intersections where the driveway meets existing concrete (garage floor, sidewalks, curb).

Verified By: _____ Date: _____

PHASE 3 Pour Day & Placing Operations

Check concrete delivery specifications and placing techniques.

☐ **Mix Strength Verification**

Check the delivery ticket. Verify a minimum compressive strength of 4,000 PSI at 28 days.

☐ **Air Entrainment**

Verify that the mix contains 5% to 7% entrained air (mandatory in freeze-thaw climates).

☐ **Slump Test**

Ensure the concrete is placed at a slump of 3 to 4 inches. Do not allow the driver to add excessive water to the mixer, as this weakens the concrete.

☐ **Dampen the Subbase**

Just before the pour, spray the gravel base with water. A bone-dry base will wick water from the concrete, causing the bottom of the slab to weaken and crack.

☐ **No Overworking**

Ensure the crew levels the concrete with a screed and runs a magnesium bullfloat before bleedwater rises to the surface.

☐ **Slip-Resistant Texture**

Ensure a broom finish is applied to the surface. Avoid a smooth steel-troweled finish.

Verified By: _____ Date: _____

PHASE 4 Joints, Curing, and Vehicle Access

Follow-up checks to ensure the concrete cures and hardens to its maximum potential strength.

- ☐ **Joint Sawcutting Timing**
Verify that control joints are sawcut within 6 to 18 hours of the pour (before the concrete begins to shrink and crack on its own).
- ☐ **Control Joint Depth**
Verify that control joints are cut to a depth of exactly 1/4 of the slab thickness (e.g., 1 inch deep for a 4-inch slab).
- ☐ **Control Joint Spacing**
Verify that control joints are spaced no more than 10 feet apart for a 4-inch slab (or 12 feet for a 5-inch slab).
- ☐ **Curing Compound Application**
Apply a liquid membrane-forming curing compound (meeting ASTM C309) immediately after finishing to seal in hydration moisture.
- ☐ **Keep Wet (If Wet-Curing)**
If using wet curing blankets, keep the blankets continuously saturated with water for at least 7 days.
- ☐ **Pedestrian Traffic Delay**
Keep people and pets off the new concrete for at least 24 hours.
- ☐ **Passenger Vehicle Delay**
Keep cars and light trucks off the driveway for a minimum of 7 days.
- ☐ **Heavy Vehicle Delay**
Keep heavy trucks, RVs, and trailers off the driveway for at least 28 days.
- ☐ **Polyurethane Joint Sealing**
Wait 28 days for the concrete to cure, then seal all cut joints with a self-leveling polyurethane sealant.

Verified By: _____ Date: _____

🕒 QUICK REFERENCE SPECS

Min Base Thickness	4" (6" preferred)
Min Slab Thickness (Residential)	4"
Min Slab Thickness (Heavy Vehicle)	5" - 6"
Min Mix Compressive Strength	4,000 PSI @ 28 Days
Air Entrainment (Freeze-Thaw)	5% to 7%
Concrete Slump Limit	3" to 4"
Control Joint Depth	1/4 Slab Thickness
Control Joint Spacing (4" Slab)	Max 10 Feet

FINAL PROJECT SIGN-OFF

Contractor Name:

Contractor Signature:

Date:

Owner/Inspector
Signature:

Date: