

Dry Shake-On Toppings for New Milking Parlour Floors

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*The information below and on the data sheets was supplied by:
John O'Connor, Construction Chemical Supplies, JFK Industrial Estate, Dublin 12.
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Construction Chemical Supplies is one supplier of this material and other concrete products. They can supply direct to customer or through some local milking machine agents or building contractors.

Click on [Parlourtop](#) in the index to open a data sheet on the dry shake on topping for milking parlour floors.

Click on [Parlourtop Safety Sheet](#) in the index to open a safety data sheet on the dry shake on topping.

More information can be got by phoning John O'Connor on the numbers above.

*Mise le Mheas,
Tom Ryan,
Kildalton.*

Concrete floors can provide a tough and durable surface for many applications. However, the demands of certain environments can lead to their deterioration far more quickly than may have been envisaged when the concrete was first placed. Very few industries subject their floors to a greater level of wear and tear than the day to day operating of an agricultural milking parlour.

Farmers can increase the life expectancy of their parlour floors in a number of ways. Primarily, the new concrete should be ordered from a reputable concrete supplier, who can offer advice on strength, slump, water / cement ratio, aggregate size and placing time.

The farmer can further enhance the wearing surface of the floor by incorporating a coloured, shake-on powder onto the top 5mm of the wet concrete. This can increase the abrasion resistance by over 800%, while providing a bright, slip resistant surface for the cows to walk on. These materials can be easily applied by the builder, or indeed by the farmer himself. The concrete is placed and levelled in the normal way. When any bleed water has evaporated, a 25 kg bag of dry shake powder is sprinkled from the hand, over an area of 10 square metres and left to soak up the water from the concrete. After about ten minutes the material should be rubbed with a plastic float before applying a second bag of powder to the same area.

The final finish can be achieved by either, power-floating and applying a light brushed finish, or by rubbing with a plastic float, giving a textured profile to the floor.

Shake-on powders offer a very cost effective way of improving the aesthetics and long term durability of milking parlour floors.