

Healthy Homes and Buildings

February 2015



By Lindy Ausburne

For over 30 years Lindy has built a solid reputation in the world of concrete by combining industry knowledge with hands-on field experience. In

her opinion, these are the key components in assuring those who have a vested interest receive true and lasting value in regards to classic beauty, attention to detail, and premium performance.

It is her personal belief that an honest and reliable reputation is the recipe for success, and throughout her career she has worked hard at increasing the demand and overall image of the hardscapes industry.

Lindy now runs High Definition Concrete consulting and is actively involved in a number of forums aimed at the improvement of the decorative concrete industry.

How do prospective residential and customer view your architectural hardscape surfaces ... change their focus from one that is merely “desired” to one that is “required!”

How you ask?... by professionally addressing safety management issues, sanitation concerns, and green safe healthy living and working environments ... educating and bringing the following to their attention.

Sanitation

According to the Alliance for Consumer Education (ACE), a foundation dedicated to advancing community health and well-being, the following are leading causes for illness in homes and buildings where they may be thriving... dust, dust mites, enterococcus, mold, germs, mold, rhinovirus & RSV, Rotavirus, Trichophyton (athletes foot).

Ease in cleaning and sanitation are paramount quality of life issues for those that suffer with serious illnesses and diseases such as Leukemia, Hodgkin's Disease, AIDS, bone marrow or other types of transplants,

Asthma, Cancer, etc. Seamless decorative hardscapes provide interior and exterior solutions, as well as “surfaces that are required, not merely desired.” **McKinnon Materials** sealed sustainable flooring such as McKrete, Aurora Dust Epoxy, Chromastain, and other non-porous types of flooring, represents an effective ways/means to control contamination ... non-sustainable traditional flooring (carpets, seamed vinyl, grouted tile, along with other flooring having joints) can lead to serious health related complications, perhaps even being of a “life and death” nature.

Safety Management

According to OSHA, slips trips, and falls constitute the majority of general industry accidents. They cause 15% of all accidental deaths, and are second only to motor vehicles as a cause of fatalities. OSHA recommends that walking surfaces have a Static Coefficient of Friction of “0.50.” A research project sponsored by the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) conducted test with persons with disabilities and concluded that a higher coefficient of friction was needed by such persons. A static coefficient of friction of “0.60” is recommended for accessible routes and 0.80 for ramps.

According to ADA, Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities (ADAAG), Accessible Elements and Spaces: Scope and Technical Requirements, as pertaining to 4.5 Ground and Floor Surfaces, “ground

and floor surfaces along accessible routes and in access rooms/spaces, including floors, walks, ramps, stairs, and curb ramps, shall be stable firm, slip-resistant, and comply with 4.5 standard.

The ADA provides for penalties up to \$50,000 for a first offense and up to \$100,000 for second offense. There are also penalties in addition to legal fees/etc. A majority of Workman's Compensation and General Liability Insurance claims result from slip/fall accidental injuries.

General Liability Insurance and Workman's Compensation Insurance premiums are based, among other factors, on actual claims experience; therefore, by taking steps to curtail accidental injuries from slip/fall accidents you will be providing your customers with a viable ways/means to take control (reduce or cap) rising insurance related costs through responsible safety engineering and addressing risk management issues

By incorporating skid/slip fall resistant micro-medias integrally into McKinnon Materials resinous coatings and high performance sealers you will be providing your customers with the way/means to address ADA & OSHA mandates.