

Wet concrete is acidic and causes skin irritation. With continuous contact, it can burn the skin, and chromium in the cement can cause allergic reactions. Such contact can lead to stinging pain, itching, blisters, scabs, dead skin, and swelling. Allergic reactions can end careers.

Jon's Story

Jon, a construction worker, had been on a project for about a month. One of his tasks was to mix wet concrete. Jon did not know that his employer should have given him protective gloves and boots, and he did not know he needed them. By the end of the month, he had several burn marks on his hands. Jon went to the doctor and learned that his injuries were so bad that he could not work for a few months until his wounds healed.

- ✘ **Have you or someone you worked with ever suffered a burn or skin reaction from working with wet concrete? If so, what happened?**
- ✘ **What could the worker have done to avoid the injury caused by contact with wet concrete?**

Remember This

- To protect skin from wet concrete, wear protective clothing and gear:
 - Coveralls with long sleeves and pant legs
 - Waterproof boots high enough to prevent concrete from flowing in
 - Alkali-resistant gloves
 - Safety glasses.
- Pull sleeves down over gloves and tuck pants inside boots; use duct tape at the top of boots to keep concrete out.
- To reduce potential contact with wet concrete during mixing, use ready-mixed concrete instead of mixing on site, when possible.
- Use a dry board or waterproof kneepads to protect knee fabric from becoming soaked when kneeling on fresh concrete.
- Remove jewelry such as rings and watches because wet concrete can collect under them.
- If skin comes in contact with wet concrete, wash it immediately with pH-neutral soap and clean water. DO NOT use the water in the bucket. DO NOT use hand sanitizers.
- At home, wash your work clothes separately.

How can we stay safe today?

What will we do at the worksite to prevent injuries from contact with wet concrete?

1. _____

2. _____

OSHA Regulations: 1926.95 and 1926.102



- ✘ Wear waterproof gloves and boots.
- ✘ Pull sleeves down over gloves and tuck pants inside boots; use duct tape at the top of boots to keep concrete out. Use a dry board or waterproof kneepads for kneeling.
- ✘ Remove jewelry such as rings and watches because wet concrete can collect under them.
- ✘ Wash concrete off skin with *clean* water and pH-neutral soap, not bucket water or sanitizers.