

For some medium-sized jobs, a tumble mixer is the best way to go. Here we cover practical tips on everything from how to add material into the mixer to how to thicken the concrete up if it gets too sloppy.

STEP 1 Always use Irish Cement safely when mixing concrete. Protect your eyes, skin and lungs. Safety information is printed on the bags and can be found on the Irish Cement website.



STEP 2 Store bags off the ground and protect them from rain and moisture. Use the cement within 3 months of the packing date printed on the bag. And always use opened bags right away.



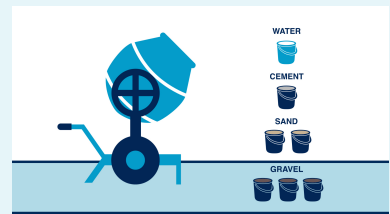
STEP 3 The simple rule of thumb for general purpose concrete is 1 – 2 – 3.



STEP 4 For more accurate mixes always use a measure like a bucket



STEP 5 Place the mixer on a firm level base before starting work. Tilt the drum to 45 degrees before turning it on. Add half the aggregates followed by a small amount of water. Next add the cement and quickly follow with a covering of sand and some more water.



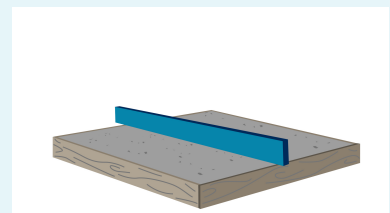
STEP 6 Mix the materials adding the remainder of the aggregates and ensuring that there is no build-up of unmixed materials on the sides of the mixer. Add the remaining water very slowly during mixing remembering that it may take a little time before the effect of the added water will be seen in the mix. Continue until fully mixed.



STEP 7 Concrete actually sets by the reaction of cement and water so too much water will make the concrete weak.



STEP 8 Compact and level off the concrete carefully to ensure a consistent even finish.



STEP 9 Remember, protect your work from rain or during hot weather to ensure the concrete sets correctly. Properly 'curing' the concrete like this will ensure better quality longer-lasting concrete. Depending on the conditions curing can take up to 7 days.

