# VIDEO 4 - HOW TO LAY A GARDEN SHED BASE

Thinking of getting a new shed for your garden?
Here we explain how to prepare the area and lay a concrete base.

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
Mark out the area and clear any vegetation and topsoil slightly
wider than the base you want. Prepare a firm level base of
compacted gravel or clay on which to place your concrete.
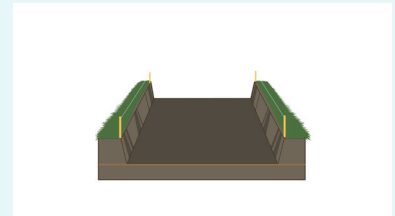
STEP 3
Place side-forms which will hold the concrete in place while it sets.
Use clean smooth timber planks secured with pegs along the
outside. Drive the pegs below the level of the planks keeping the
top edges of the side-forms level.
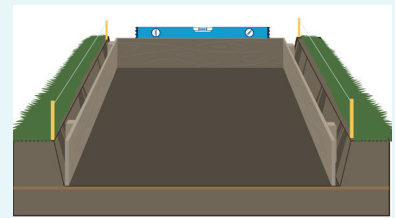
STEP 4
Mix your concrete and place into the form-work. See our concrete
calculator and other videos on how to mix concrete.
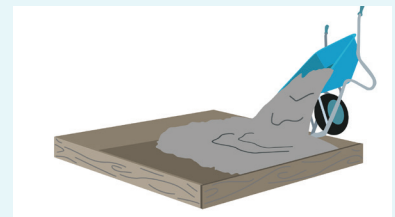
STEP 5
Tamping the top of the concrete will help to remove trapped air
bubbles. You can also tap the side forms.
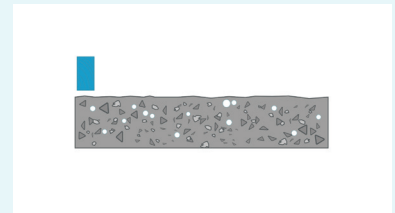
STEP 6
To ensure the surface is level, you will need to screed it.
Take a straight piece of timber that spans the width of the concrete
and level the surface using a sawing motion.
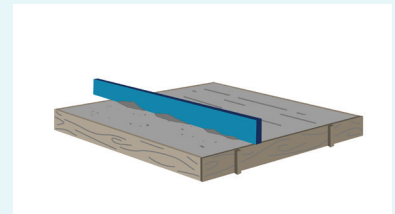
STEP 7
You can float the concrete surface to get a smooth finish.
If using a hand float, use wide overlapping arcs.
Two or three passes should be enough to create a smooth surface.
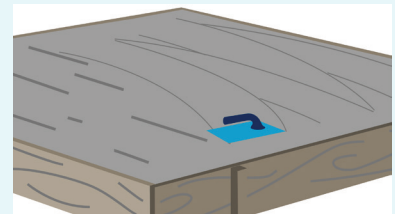
STEP 8
A textured finish can be achieved by lightly drawing the bristles of
a stiff brush across the surface when the concrete has begun to set
but before it has hardened completely.
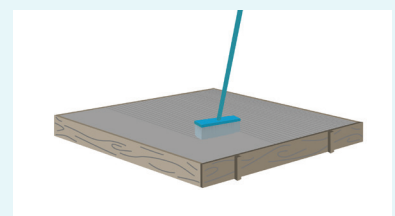
STEP 9
Remember, protect your work from rain or during hot weather to
ensure the concrete sets correctly. Properly 'curing' the concrete
like this will ensure better quality longer-lasting concrete.
Depending on the conditions curing can take up to 7 days.