

Guide to Form Release Agents

The objective of a form release is to break the bond between the form & the concrete. Not to add, or subtract, anything from the concrete mix design it also can prolong the life of the forms by reducing the required cleaning. It can reduce the surface tension at the form interface, allowing air to migrate upward helping to reduce the bug holes.

There are three basic types of form release

- **Reactive** Release ... use fatty acids that produce a chemical reaction when in contact with alkali (concrete) that produces a soap like residue.
- **Buffered** Release ... not as chemically reactive & more 'forgiving' if over applied
- **Barrier** Release ... no fatty acids, no reaction, no 'soap'

Application

- The forms need to be dry, clean and free of rust. Rust and dirt will transfer to the concrete surface.
- Dayton Superior recommends treating new regular plywood with a lime water solution prior to its first use in forming. This solution will neutralize the naturally occurring wood sugars in the plywood.
- Apply form releases only during dry weather.
- Apply with low pressure spray using a wide angle, low flow, fan-type spray nozzle. Do not use a spray nozzle designed for curing compounds, it will over apply the material.
- On smooth, dense forms, i.e., steel or aluminum, the best performance will be achieved by spraying the form release followed by wiping down the forms with a clean soft cloth.

- Do not over apply. Over application can result in surface dusting and the formation of bug holes

All NEW wood forms require a heavy application of form release prior to their first use. This application should be heavy enough to saturate the wood. Multiple coats of form release are often necessary to accomplish this saturation, with at least 5 to 6 hours between coats.

NOTE: Do not apply Dayton Superior form releases to polystyrene forms.

Dayton Superior Form Releases

Reactive:

- Clean Strip J1A
- Clean Strip J1A Winter Grade
- Clean Strip J100 VOC
- Clean Strip Ultra J3
- Clean Strip J2
- Clean Strip J2 Winter Grade

Buffered:

- Magic Kote

Barrier

- Clean Strip J1EF