

Curing

Keeping the water in while it hydrates.

Civil Engineering

The cover zone is the part that dries first and matters most.

Why it matters

Hydration stops when the concrete dries

Surface strength suffers first and most

Poor curing leaves a permeable cover

A permeable cover means early corrosion

Plastic shrinkage cracks form in hours

How to do it

Leave formwork in place as long as allowed

Cover with sheeting or wet hessian

Apply a spray curing membrane

Protect from wind, sun and frost

Cure longer in cold or windy weather

Educational reference. Minimum curing periods depend on exposure class and cement type in the governing standard.