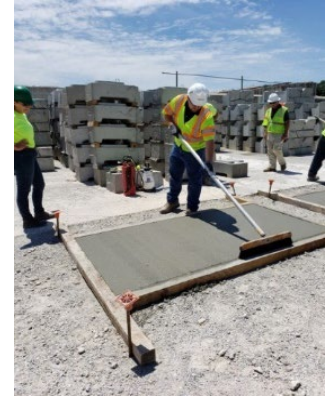


# Concrete Finishers Course & Class S Specification

## Concrete Finishing: Making the Grade

Pennsylvania, like many other states, recognizes that the **concrete finishing process** can be just as important to product quality and longevity as the physical concrete itself. To address this issue, Pennsylvania implemented the **Certified Concrete Finishers Course** in 2022, which requires finishers to acquire certification through a nationally recognized program, such as the **National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA)** and **American Concrete Institute (ACI)** finisher certifications programs.



To further support municipalities in Pennsylvania, a new **Class S Sidewalk Concrete Mix Specification** went into effect in 2023, along with **improvements to the construction methods** noted in Section 676 of PennDOT [Publication 408](#). Pennsylvania's municipalities are most often the specifier, and many times the owner of sidewalks placed in commercial and residential developments across the commonwealth. Ensuring these are built in accordance with a specification that provides for their **maximum service life** will be beneficial to everyone.

## What are the benefits?

- Increases the **quality, durability** and **longevity** of finished concrete
- Saves **time** and **money** by eliminating costly repairs or rework
- Trains **new** and **existing staff** on proper finishing techniques



## How does it work?

The **Certified Concrete Finishers Course** includes classroom and practical, hands-on training to increase the expertise of concrete finishers and reduce the occurrence of scaling on state and local projects. In addition to the finishers course, a **training module for PennDOT and Municipal construction inspectors** is available to provide a better understanding of the mechanisms that cause scaling and the ability to better understand and monitor construction field practices.



The revised requirements, which cover placing, finishing, curing and sealing concrete, offer significant advantages. The changes in the PennDOT specifications allow municipalities to **properly specify** the projects within their township or borough. These improvements are not limited to sidewalks but apply for **all exterior concrete flatwork**.

## How do I learn more?

To learn more about this innovation, visit <http://www.penndot.pa.gov/stic> or email [penndotstic@pa.gov](mailto:penndotstic@pa.gov).