

PSI (Pounds per Square Inch)

Depending on the type of job or project, concrete is ordered by strength. A typical residential job will fall in the range of 3000 PSI to 4500 PSI, or Pounds per Square Inch. Pounds per Square Inch is the amount of cement the mix contains to develop the strength needed.

3000 PSI is generally used for footings. Footing usage and size depends on the outcome of your soil testing and the lands bearing capacity. Footings distribute weight over a larger area and help decrease settlement. You will generally need footings for new construction or below grade additions.

For driveways, sidewalks, foundations, walls, and patios a 4000 PSI mix is typically recommended. Keep in mind this is for a typical home. If you are building a stone mansion, you will need to use a stronger mix to support the weight.

When it comes to residential driveways you need to keep in mind that some cities and counties have specifications for the approaches (where the driveway meets the street) and sidewalks. Some do specify a C-4WRC mix be used. This mix is designed by the DOT and meets their requirements. Each ready-mix supplier uses these specific mix designs to meet compliance. You can find this information on your counties webpage under the county engineer link. If your county doesn't provide this, call the engineer and ask. If you aren't in compliance, you will have to rip it out and start over.

If you are unsure what strength you need, you will need to discuss the type of project you are working on when placing your order. The dispatcher can recommend a mix for common projects or they may refer you to sales to ensure you order the mix you need.

