

Concrete evidence of flawless flooring possibilities

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Burnished concrete is polished concrete's lesser-known cousin, yet it offers its own share of stylish intrigue in its glossy look, varied patterns and range of colour options.

Trendsetter Homes Design and Strategy Manager Rachel Maree Smith said the difference between the two was in the production process after pouring the concrete.

"Unlike polished concrete, burnished concrete is created without the use of grinding," she said. "Shortly after pouring, a trowel machine equipped with steel trowel blades is used to further smooth and compact the surface.

"This initial trowelling step prepares the concrete for the burnishing process.

"In essence, the trowel machine is used to burn the slab, hence burnishing."

The final product is a smooth, semi-gloss to high-gloss finish depending on the use of a sealer.

What makes burnished flooring so special is the design is different every time, with no two applications the same.

"It has a distinctive aesthetic," Mrs Smith said. "People who embrace the irregular colouring and patterning of concrete tend to really love burnished flooring.

"It is the imperfections of burnished concrete finishes which make them beautiful."

Mrs Smith said there were many different styles available, which could easily be adapted to suit various home aesthetics.

"Burnished flooring has the magical ability to enhance many different styles," she said.

"It can look stunning in a sleek modern home or it can be used to connect an older classic home to a new renovation.

"You can change the colour of burnished concrete to customise the flooring by altering the concrete mix such as increasing oxides applied within the mix or with surface staining.

"I have also used it in coastal homes as a beautiful, neutral base floor, which isn't overpowering but is an awesome grounding element."

Burnished concrete is also highly durable and low maintenance, boasting hygienic qualities on top of its visual appeal.

"When properly installed and maintained, burnished concrete can last for decades, making it an excellent long-term investment for your home or property," Mrs Smith said.

"The smooth sealed surface inhibits the growth of mould, mildew and allergens, making it a hygienic choice for indoor spaces."

For people looking to incorporate

burnished flooring into their dwelling, Mrs Smith laid out some great advice – do your research, consult with your builder and understand what is required during the process.

"I would recommend taking some time to research the characteristics of burnished concrete, and become familiar with what it can and can't do," she said.

"Then, speak with your builder or designer in the early stages of designing your home, as it is something that should be considered at the beginning of a build.

"It is vital to understand the protection required – covering the floor with proper protection is crucial because until the floor is finished at the end of the building process, it is susceptible to all sorts of damage."

As a gorgeous finish effectively enhancing interiors, Mrs Smith said understanding burnished concrete's beauty, benefits and limitations was key to getting the best result possible.



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