

Concrete Hardness + Pad Selection Guide

Quick reference for choosing bond and sequence based on slab condition

Use this sheet as a field guide. Start with the slab condition you see on site, then choose the bond / pad path that gives stable cutting without excessive glazing, scratching, or burnishing too early.

1. Hardness guide and selection logic

Concrete condition	Typical behavior	Metal / hybrid choice	Resin strategy	Main caution
Soft concrete	Cuts fast, can smear or scratch easily	Use harder bond metals; keep hybrid step controlled	Avoid big jumps; use cleaner transitions	Too much pressure can make resins bite aggressively
Medium concrete	Balanced cutting and pad life	Medium bond metals or your usual balanced setup	Typical resin sequence works well	Do not rush out of the cleanup step
Hard / dense concrete	Can glaze tools and cut slowly	Use softer bond metals; hybrids can help open the floor	Give enough time in each resin step	Watch for glazing and reduced cut

2. Recommended starting sequences

Job goal	Soft concrete	Medium concrete	Hard / dense concrete
General scratch cleanup to matte finish	Harder-bond metal → Hybrid 50 / 100 → Resin 200 / 400	Medium-bond metal → Hybrid 50 / 100 → Resin 200 / 400	Softer-bond metal → Hybrid 50 / 100 → Resin 200 / 400
Polishing route to higher gloss	Harder-bond metal → Hybrid 50 / 100 → Resin 200 → 400 → 800 → 1500	Medium-bond metal → Hybrid 50 / 100 → Resin 200 → 400 → 800 → 1500	Softer-bond metal → Hybrid 50 / 100 → Resin 200 → 400 → 800 → 1500
If you need a shorter sequence	Only shorten after a clean test area proves it works	A moderate shortcut may work on balanced slabs	Shortcuts are risky if the floor is still tight / not opened

3. Fast decision rules

- If the floor is soft, control aggression first. Too much cut can create extra scratch problems later.
- If the floor is hard and dense, open the slab first. Tools that are too hard may glaze instead of cutting.
- If you are unsure, test a small area and read the scratch pattern before committing to the full floor.
- Sequence discipline matters more than chasing one miracle pad.

4. Practical signs to read on site

What you notice	What it suggests	What to try next
Tool cuts too aggressively and leaves heavy scratch	Floor may be softer than expected	Reduce pressure, slow the jump, and clean the pattern before moving on
Tool seems to skate / glaze and not cut	Floor may be hard or dense	Move toward a softer-bond metal or give the opening step more time
Resin finish looks patchy	Transition into resin was not fully cleaned	Return to a prior step and make the scratch pattern uniform

5. Information to confirm before recommending a pad

- Concrete hardness: soft / medium / hard
- Wet or dry process
- Machine model and approximate working weight
- Current grit sequence
- Target finish: matte, satin, polished, or higher gloss