

A Complete Guide to Choosing a Concrete & Screed Supplier



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The importance of choosing the right concrete supplier

How do you typically choose who supplies your concrete?

Is your decision based purely on price? On location?
Because you know somebody who knows somebody else?

If this is the case, then you might want to consider a few other points before you decide who to trust with your concreting.

Picking the perfect concrete supplier is an important choice you have to make.

It's not like buying a pair of boots or a new TV. If your concrete is faulty or not up to standard, it's not as simple as taking it back for a refund.

This is why you need to put some serious thought into your decision – so you can get it right the first time.

At Mixamate, we've been supplying and laying concrete and screed for over 40 years.

So we know exactly what is valuable to our customers and how to provide the best possible service.

To highlight this, we've pulled together the finer points of concreting so you know what to look out for prior to your next job.

"I would highly recommend Mixamate. I had Andy come to site. He rang prior to arriving to let me know he was on the way. It was my first time using a pump and Andy it made it very easy to use, sending down 0.6 cubic metres each time until we had the right amount on site. The site was left extremely tidy, nothing was too much trouble and it was a really hot day."





Value for money does not mean the cheapest

The first thing you might be tempted to look at is the cost. But this isn't really what is important.

Value is what's important.

Think about it: would you rather buy the cheapest car at the dealership but then fork out for repairs and maintenance several times a year, or do you want to avoid any hassle and future expenses by finding the one that provides the most value for money?

Exactly. And it's the same with concrete.

The cheapest option on the market is the cheapest for a reason. You get what you pay for.

A premium end product is worth shopping around for.

Another aspect of value to consider is what is actually included in the purchase price.

Find out if you're getting the full extent of the service for the

initial fee or if this only covers the cost of the most basic service. There shouldn't be any hidden fees to pay for a job well done.

“When we provide a quote for a concreting job, you can rest assured that the quote is for the full Mixmate service.”

– Chris Smith, Managing Director of Mixamate

There have been countless times over the years where people have asked us to fix the problems caused by the so-called 'cheap and cheerful' outfits out there. That description is only half right though, as they may be cheap, but there is absolutely nothing to be cheerful about.

This is often because the cheapest quote doesn't include some of the premium services that make the difference between a fantastic job and an average job.

A quality company will be completely transparent about what you get as part of their service and provide the best possible value.

Quality suppliers can prove their quality

Speaking of quality, this is something that should be easily evidenced by any decent concrete supplier.

At Mixamate we employ a dedicated concrete technician to consistently test the concrete we supply.

“Once again a great service from mixamate. Always on time and a pleasure to deal with. The job was made even better by driver Sam who was very efficient, professional, and polite - would highly recommend!”

The next step is to measure and check the compression at different times during the concreting process. This starts with running flow tests on site and then taking the samples back to our lab for further analysis.

We do this by selecting cubes of concrete from the mix and testing them after 7, 14 and 28 days. We then compile our findings into a report and a strength graph for our customers to have in-depth information about what they are getting.

Things we test include:

- Where the concrete flatlines
- Compression strength
- Aggregate gradings
- Cement quality
- Water content
- Fluidity
- Cracking

Testing is so important because if even one aspect of the concrete has a problem it will affect the overall quality – which is something we will never compromise.

“Brilliant to deal with, came out within 3 days and the guy who delivered (Andy) was great to work with. I highly recommend!”

Diminished quality leads to lots of problems further down the line. Should it crack or not settle well as a result of this, the concrete would have to be dug up and replaced, costing more time and more money.

This is why we ensure that every customer receives a premium end product and that our equipment and trucks are in prime condition for the job.

We see all of this testing as a vital part of the process.

Whilst some ready-mix and volumetric suppliers do provide a base level of testing, it is typically not as in-depth as the analysis conducted by our concrete technicians.

The lowest priced companies may seem affordable at first glance, yet there are often additional extras like this that should be part of the service but aren't.

Something else you should be aware of with standard ready mixers is anything that is left over when the job is done. If your original calculations don't match up to what is actually used, you could well be charged more than is necessary. You will be charged for what you order, even if you don't actually use it all. But this isn't the case with our pump trucks.

All of our vehicles are equipped with an onboard computer that calculates the exact mix that is required for each job.

Not only does this provide the best possible blend, it also ensures that nothing is wasted and you don't pay for more than what you need.

“Excellent service at Milford today. Mark was our operator. Couldn't wish for a pour to go better. My company will be using their services regularly.”



Accessibility shouldn't be an issue

The method of mixing and laying the concrete is another thing to take into consideration.

You generally have three main options when it comes to concreting: ready mixing, volumetric trucks, or **an all-in-one pump truck**.

Ready Mix

Ready mixing sounds like an easy and effective way to concrete, but there are several things you have to contend with using this method.

First, as the concrete is mixed off-site the batch must be delivered and laid within an hour or so of leaving the plant.

Sounds doable. But what if there's traffic? What if parking is an issue on or near the site? What if the site is difficult to reach and requires lots of back and forth to the truck?

Time is truly of the essence with ready-mixers. The more time that goes by, the more the quality suffers and the more your costs could go up.

Volumetric Trucks

Next we have volumetric trucks. But that's not actually all there is to it. You need a volumetric mixing truck **AND** a separate pumping truck.

Not only does this mean you'll be paying for two different vehicles and two lots of staff, it causes twice as many carbon emissions, and there are also physical issues to contend with.

Is there space for two big trucks to park back to back in the street or on the site? They need to be close together so the pump mixer can discharge into the pump, but this will often require up to 20 metres of open parking to achieve.

Would you be happy if your street was taken up for a few hours by a couple of trucks? Would the locals and your neighbours be happy about it?

If there isn't any space for the trucks, what then? What if only one truck turns up and the other is delayed? You may have to reschedule and fork out even more money for your troubles.

“Great service from initial phone call through to the delivery this morning. Mark was very helpful very punctual and called me 1/2hr before arriving, and we filled the base slab quickly and efficiently with no mess and the

exact amount we needed. We will definitely use Mixamate again and would highly recommend Mark and the guys for all your concreting needs.”

Mixamate Trucks

The third option is one of our mix and pump trucks. And it is only one truck that you'll need.

We do everything in one easy and convenient vehicle.

Once our onboard computer has configured the perfect mix for your needs by weight, it is **mixed on-site and pumped there and then**.

There is no waiting around for a second truck to turn up. No need to find 20 metres of space on the street for multiple trucks. No rushing around to stop the concrete setting prematurely.

We also use five-metre rubber pumping hoses. **These are lightweight and flexible so we can access any hard-to-reach locations.** It also only requires one person to carry and will ensure the concrete is laid quickly and efficiently.

Multiple hoses can even be connected together up to 80 meters in length, allowing even more places to be reached without any drama.

It's not just ground floor or basement work we do either. Pumping work can be done to the height of the truck itself, so first floor concreting is well within our remit.



No mess left behind

Something that often goes unconsidered when choosing a concrete supplier is the mess that you'll be left with once the job is done.

If you're thinking that there shouldn't be any mess left over at all, then we absolutely agree with you.

Unfortunately, this isn't always the case.

Horror stories have even reached our ears about wheelbarrows of ready-mix concrete having to be taken through customer's houses to reach the back garden where the work is being done.

Nobody wants concrete dripping all over their carpet and across their garden - and you shouldn't have to.

"I had a Mixamate concrete delivery last week for a DIY Garden room base. From ordering to delivery it was a first class service. The delivery driver/operator, David, was brilliant. Very informative and helpful. Tidy and courteous. I've never done a base before, where we pumped it in. Nothing was

too much trouble for David. The job went really well and I'd recommend Mixamate every time. Thanks for a top job."

If your concrete supplier uses a conventional piston pump, the operator will insist on cleaning out his pump once the delivery is complete.

This will happen whether the truck is parked on your site or in the street, where any mess would be your responsibility to clean up.

Which is why we do everything in one truck. Our pump is already connected to the truck and sealed so that nothing drips out.

As the hose we use is so flexible, it can go over and around obstacles much more easily and cleanly than a steel alternative.

We also don't consider our job done until everything is as clean and tidy as it was when we arrived.

Rushing off to another job is not the way we do things. There is no mess and no damage when using a Mixamate pump truck.

“Mixamate self-levelling concrete prepared and pumped by Sam and Aaron. I was slightly skeptical about a concrete mix (not a screed) that would self-level but that’s exactly what it is. All that’s needed is minimal tamping with a ‘T’-shaped bit of 4x2 and I now have a 50m² concrete patio base that’s ready for tiling with large format porcelain tiles. Sam is an expert at controlling the mix, flow rate and giving guidance while Aaron is on hand to ensure the quality is as good as it can be. Can’t rate these guys and Mixamate highly enough and it’s a bit of a shame that I haven’t got any more concreting jobs to do. Would recommend with no reservations at all; quick, clean, efficient and cost-effective.”

- Trustpilot Review, 2018



Time is on your side

One of the biggest issues within any project is time.

Whether it's making sure no time goes to waste or if it's completing a project on time, everybody puts value on their minutes and hours.

And so do we.

We know how tight deadlines can be on any sort of building project.

We like to make it as swift and easy as possible for you.

We mix on site and ensure the job is done to the highest possible standard so there is no rework needed further down the line.

“Great service - on time and very helpful at a difficult site. Particular thanks to the driver Ian for his help!”

When a job is rushed or the concrete is not high in quality it can end up cracking once it has set. When this happens you generally need to spend more time getting (and paying) somebody to come in and fix it.

This is why testing is so important for us. **If the job is done right the first time**, you won't have to push back your

deadlines because of any nasty problems that need resolving. Using the all-in-one pump truck doesn't just save you time in the long-run, **the work on the day is also done smoothly and promptly.**

- Only one truck is needed, so there's no hanging around waiting for another one to turn up and get the work started.
- The concrete is mixed on site, so there's no chance of it setting before it is laid.
- The flexible rubber pump can access tricky areas, so there's no wasting time trying to clear obstacles out of the way.

Finally, we offer fast response times to any and all queries and bookings. From **6am to 5pm Monday to Friday**, as well as 6am to 1pm on Saturdays, our team is on hand to provide the information and assistance you need.

We have multiple sites across the North and the South of England, so we can get to you in good time and without delay.

“The small pipe was perfect for pumping into our cellar and the only one of this type available in the Leeds area.”

Know what to expect from the service

There are several features that make a good service in our eyes. First of all, the people involved should really know their stuff – at all levels of the company.

At Mixamate we pride ourselves on having a team of people who are passionate and knowledgeable about concreting and in a job well done.

This starts from the very top and permeates throughout the whole of Mixamate.

Every one of our drivers is ready and willing to talk you through the whole process on site.

We want you to know what is happening every step of the way.

We also have experienced concrete technicians who visit the site and use their expertise to test the quality and strength of the concrete. This is all part of our service and is offered to all of our customers.

“Ordered concrete for this morning, Mark the driver called before he arrived, once set up he did a fantastic job, good mixes as I’d asked for, he controlled the traffic and members of the public very well, I will recommend to my other builder contacts.”

Something else we are proud of at Mixamate is our range of services.

As well as concreting, we also offer a screed service.

We can supply liquid and dry screed, and will even lay the liquid screed for you.

The liquid screed we use contains an integral curing agent, so it dries in a third of the time of traditional screeds. It is also thinner and more conductive, which makes it perfect for underfloor heating.

As we lay it as well as pump it for you, there is no need to wait around for it to dry afterwards so you can sand it down – it’s all done for you!

Whilst liquid screed is becoming more and more popular due to its effectiveness, we still offer a dry screed service too, should this be more suited to your groundwork needs.

There is also a **positive environmental impact** as a result of this. By only requiring one truck for a job we save over 1000 lorry journeys each month, which cuts down hugely on carbon emissions and creates far less congestion on the roads.

After the concrete has been set and the trucks have left, we will still be on hand to answer any questions you might have. **We’re not happy until you’re happy**, and the job isn’t finished until you say it is.



Why choose Mixmate?

As you can see, there are lots of potential pitfalls to choosing the wrong concrete or screed supplier.

There are plenty of ready mix and volumetric firms out there to choose from, but the Mixamate mix and pump trucks are completely unique. **Just take a look at the differences:**

	Ready Mix	Volumetric Truck	Mixmate All-In One Truck
Quality testing (including strength graph and report)	×	×	✓
Direct, quick and easy, friendly advice from concrete technician	×	?	✓
Onboard computer-calculated mix to ensure accuracy	×	×	✓
Only pay for what you use	×	✓	✓
Mixed and pumped on site	×	×	✓
Only requires one vehicle (saving space and time)	×	×	✓
Can access hard-to-reach locations using flexible hoses	×	×	✓
No mess after pumping	×	×	✓
Positive environmental impact - only one truck doing the work of two trucks	×	×	✓



“Excellent service pumping self-levelling concrete in Southampton today. The initial contact with Mixamate to enquire, get a price and book a delivery was very efficient. Lead in time was just 3 days and contact on the day with Aaron (technical operations) who undertook the quality control checks was very helpful. The pump technician, Lucas and his mate, arrived on time and were great in guiding me and did a very clean job. This is a very cost effective service (3 cubic mtrs). Thank you all very much - great experience and the Grandkids enjoyed the video.”

As part of our service you get:

- Unmatched value
- Savings in time
- Savings in manpower
- Increased accessibility
- No mess leftover
- No wasted materials
- Concrete technician testing

- A helpful and knowledgeable team
- A quality end product
- Follow-up advice and expertise

It's not all about the concreting either. We offer a wide range of services, including

- Concrete pumping
- Self-levelling concrete
- Dry screed
- Liquid screed (pumping and laying)
- Mini-dumpers
- Straight pour and borrowing
- Waterproof concrete
- Online concrete and screed calculators

If you aren't sure about which services you actually need, or if you want to talk about specifications...

Get in touch with our team and we'll be glad to help.





Get in touch

We've garnered a reputation over the last 40 years as the best in the business, with thousands of successful jobs under our belts.

We don't just want you to take our word for what we do though. We encourage you to look at some of our testimonials on sites like **Trustpilot** (where we have a 4.9 average star rating from almost 300 reviews).

"I had a Mixamate concrete delivery last week for a DIY Garden room base. From ordering to delivery was a first class service. The delivery driver/operator, Andy, was brilliant. Very informative and helpful. Tidy and courteous. I've never done a base before, where we pumped it in. Nothing was too much trouble for Andy. The job went really well and I'd recommend Mixamate every time. Thanks for a top job."

To see even more about the work we've done up and down the country, check out our **Video Testimonials** from more of our happy clients.

Now, we want to be there to make your next project a reality.

Let's get started.

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