

How to Make a Concrete Walk

The farmer's wife each day appreciates more keenly a concrete walk, over which she can move dry-shod in every kind of weather.

The farmer himself will recognize the value of concrete, especially in winter, as it is extremely easy to remove the snow from a walk of this material.

To the walk shown in illustration, the farmer has added an idea of his own, in the form of a curb against the flower bed. This keeps the dirt from continually washing over the walk.

The curb is 4 inches high and 4 inches thick.

In building a concrete walk, decide first the width desired—this should not be less than 18 inches, and is hardly ever made more than 3 feet.

Excavate a trench 12 inches below the ground line. Fill in this trench to a depth of 6 inches with crushed stone, gravel, broken brick bats or cinders. Do not use ashes for this fill.

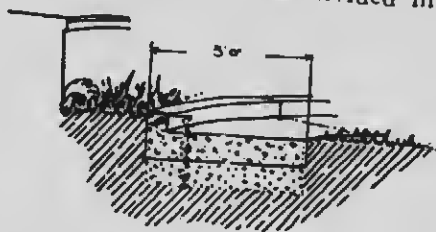
Make a 1:2:4 mixture of concrete, and "place" same, bringing it to the level desired for the walk. If this is above the ground level, a plank will have to be laid on edge along the outside edges of walk, to act as a Form.

There are two ways of finishing the surface of the walk. The concrete may be brought to the desired top and simply smoothed off with a trowel or wooden float. This leaves a somewhat rough appearance, but the walk never becomes slippery.

If on the other hand, appearance is the principal consideration, a smooth surface can be obtained by placing on top of and immediately after the concrete, a mixture of 1 part cement and 2 parts sand; and finishing to a smooth surface with a steel trowel.

The walk should be divided into sections of 4 to 5 feet in length.

This is done by means of cutting entirely through the green concrete by means of a straight spade, or by inserting strips of sheet metal as long as the width of the walk. These can be removed as soon as the concrete is in place.



Materials Required for a Walk Two and a Half Feet Wide and Twenty Feet Long.

1 cu. yd. bank run gravel.	}	OR	{	1 cu. yd. crushed stone.
5 bags cement.				$\frac{1}{2}$ cu. yd. sand.
				5 bags cement.

Approximate cost, at current prices of materials, 10c. per square foot of surface.