

## New Way to Break Stuff: Ecobust



*I used a rotary hammer to drill holes for the Ecobust.*

Nearly a year ago I blogged about a demolition product that I found at the International Builder's Show called Ecobust. Instead of ripping through concrete or stone with a jackhammer—or even explosives—Ecobust is an “expansive demolition agent” that breaks up rock and concrete neatly and silently. In other words, it's like a cement that swells as it cures. Here's how it works: (1) Drill into the concrete or rock. (2) Mix the powdered Ecobust agent with water. (3) Pour the mixture into the holes. As the agent cures it expands inside the hole, breaking apart the concrete or rock from the inside... which is awesome.



*I spaced the holes 12-14" apart.*



*The Ecobust powder is mixed with water.*

I had the chance to test the stuff on a concrete slab at my uncle's house. The slab was poured as a foundation to a children's play set, the kids went away to college, and my uncle dismantled the play set. One of the neighbors had used their tractor to push the slab against a fence, out of sight from the front yard, but my uncle still had to figure out a way to dispose of the heavy mass of concrete. That's how I discovered our test slab.



*I used a funnel to pour the mixture into the holes.*



*Here's the slab w/ all holes filled. I covered with plastic and let it cure for 24 hours.*

I drilled a series of holes into the slab using a Bosch rotary hammer and a masonry bit. The Ecobust instructions recommended a 1.5-in. hole, but my biggest bit was 1-in. diameter, so I tried to expand the width of the holes as I drilled. The package also includes instructions for hole depth and frequency, depending on the material you're drilling. For example, I was drilling in unreinforced concrete, so the chart on the can suggested I drill 80-percent through the depth of the material and space the holes 12-14 inches apart.

I mixed the Ecobust agent with a paddle and drill. I used a funnel to pour the slurry into the holes, filling them 1 inch from the top. I then covered the slab with plastic and gave it 24 hours to cure.



*After 24 hours, the slab was webbed with cracks.*

When I returned, the slab was spider-webbed with cracks. The whole thing was easy to pull apart into manageable chunks, ready for a wheelbarrow.



*Concrete chunks ready for a wheelbarrow.*

The expanding agent breaks apart the concrete using a quiet and controlled method, without a bunch of racket or flying shards of rock. The demolition creates no dust, noise,

vibrations or toxic fumes, which your neighbors will appreciate. Plus, it requires no special licenses or permits. You can check out Ecobust at [www.ecobust.com](http://www.ecobust.com).