

DECORATIVE CONCRETE MAINTENANCE GUIDELINE

I wanted to pass along some helpful tips to clean and seal your decorative concrete. Follow these guidelines for stamped, stained or any added colored concrete. Timing between cleaning and sealant applications will vary depending on exposure conditions and amount of traffic. The sealant process is best to contact a professional. The proper knowledge and tools are helpful for proper installation.

ROUTINE CLEANING: Decorative concrete should be routinely washed every few weeks to every few months. Starting first thaw after freeze. Sweep and wash the surface occasionally using a medium or soft push broom, garden hose and a mild detergent. (Dawn dishwash soap works the best). Remove spills, oil, grease or any other substance immediately.

1. Rinse well with a garden hose on high pressure. Do NOT use a power/pressure washer.
2. Scrub with a push broom and a small amount of dish soap.
3. Rinse again, making sure to remove all soap residues.

SEALANT APPLICATION: Decorative concrete should be sealed approximately every 2 – 3 years. *NOT every year. Using the same solvents and sealants is recommended. If you notice the water not beading up, color fading or loss of sheen or luster, it MAY be an indication it is time for sealant. Some situations just a solvent application is needed and no sealant. The key is NOT TO OVER SEAL. Proper PPE is recommended for the solvent and sealant applications. Avoid applying in direct sun light or heat.

1. Preparation. Wash the concrete surface. Two ways:
 - Gentle power wash, not directly towards concrete, not to damage surface.
 - Garden hose, push broom and dish soap. Rinse thoroughly.
2. Allow 24 hours to dry completely. Or longer if needed. The surface must be completely dry, no moisture.
3. Knowing the previous sealant last used is recommended. The existing sealed concrete must have a solvent based solvent applied before any sealant. This will break down the existing sealant so the new application will take. The solvent can be applied by 3/8" nap roller or industrial sprayer. (industrial sprayer a must for the seals not to dissolve). Apply 100 percent coverage as not to have excessive puddles, yet, ample coverage.
4. Use penetrating sealant of choice, Shortly after solvent application, same day. While still tacky but walkable. Some sealants can use anti-slip. Depending on sealant. Sealants can be applied either by roller or sprayer. 2 light coats is recommended. Follow manufactures instructions for application. Don't over apply, avoid excessive puddles. Let dry 24 hours before use.

AVOID: Tips for longer lasting concrete surface.

1. No Steel furniture feet/cleats. Reduces rust and abrasions.
2. No Steel shoveling. Helps reduce abrasions and sealant dulling.
3. No salt.
4. No extreme heat. Firepits should be raised and contained to avoid contact with the concrete surface
5. No power/pressure wash. Can damage sheen and luster. Only gentle pressure wash before sealant process.