

“Stain & seal” on concrete

Staining a concrete slab is one of the most cost effective ways to improve its appearance, also to create a peculiar look, a marbled finish and antiquing effects. It is misconception that concrete stains can be used to cheaply restore damaged, worn or defective concrete. When the concrete surface is sealed, painted, discolored, worn out, structurally weak, contaminated or has glue on it, the staining alone will not be a suitable mean of restoration. Additional operations are in this case necessary prior to staining, like grinding or resurfacing the slab.

Type of Stains - Most water based stains are semi-transparent, when applied to the surface will penetrate into the concrete through the pores adding a tint. They will not cover existing defects or discolorations. Some acrylic based stains can be applied in multiple thin layers to cover the entire surface. These stains are very effective in rejuvenating the concrete appearance, but most likely will not have a long lasting performance. Acid stains are reactive stains containing diluted muriatic acid, which will etch the concrete while the pigment penetrates into the slab.



Sealer – Stained concrete must be sealed to prevent accidental staining and contamination of the surface. The sealer will also extend the performance of the stain by protecting the surface from fast wearing. The frequency depending on the sealer selection, maintenance applications are normally necessary to maintain the aesthetics to top levels of performance.

Color selection – Most manufactures supply a color chart to select the desired color. The color chart should be used to select the “pigment”, not as a representation of the final concrete look, tone or appearance. Many factor such as existing color of the concrete, color of the aggregate, composition of the slab, layout and other factors will contribute to achieving every time a unique coloration, often different from what seen in the color charts. It is highly recommended, whenever possible to apply the stain (or multiple stains combination, also called “formula”) in a sampling area.



Color Juice - *Color Juice* is water based reactive stains containing silicates. Once the stain penetrates into the surface, a chemical reaction bonds the pigment particles to the concrete matrix, making of this stain the most durable, efficient and environmentally friendly product on the market. *Color Juice* does not rely on etching (like acid stains) to open the pores of the concrete, but relies on extremely finely milled pigments, able to penetrate the tightest and densest surface. Because of this feature, besides standard concrete this stain can be used on indoors or outdoors ground and polished concrete.