DelGrosso Design

Concrete Diamond Polishing & Restoration

"Stain & seal" on concrete

Staining a concrete slab is one of the most 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 like grinding or resurfacing the slab are in this case necessary prior to staining.

How it works – Concrete stains are made of penetrating pigments mixed with a media, usually water, but also sometime muriatic acid (acid stains), acetone and denature alcohol (solvents). The different media, as well as the features of the concrete surface will affect the way the pigment penetrates and dries, therefore varying the aesthetics. Most concrete stains are semi-transparent, therefore the final look will be affected, among other factors, by the slab starting color. It is important to note that, contrary to popular belief, existing defects and discolorations may be enhanced rather than mitigated by application of a stain. These factors need to be considered when determining if a slab can or not be successfully aesthetically improved by direct staining.

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 look and tone. Many factors such as color of the existing concrete, porosity, chemical composition and density of the slab, will contribute to the final appearance. We highly recommend whenever possible to prepare mockups for proper preview.

Sealer – Once stained, the concrete surface must be sealed. The sealer will protect the surface and extend the performance of the slab, providing a window of opportunity to remove accidental spills. Maintenance reapplications of sealer are normally necessary to maintain the aesthetics to top levels of performance, most typically every 5 years.

Color Juice – *Ameripolish Color Juice* is water based reactive stain containing silicates. Once the stain penetrates the surface, a chemical reaction between the silicates and the concrete bonds the pigment particles to the matrix, making this stain one of 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. These features make this stain one of the best concrete coloring products available today.