

Acid Stain Installation Guide

**JOBSITE
SUPPLY**

CONSTRUCTION IDEAS AT WORK

Preparation – Interior Floors

1. New concrete floors should be a minimum of 14 – 30 days old.
2. Slab can be troweled smooth with hand or machine trowel. Finish SHOULD NOT be “burned in”. A rotary floor machine with a sanding screen may be necessary to open up the pores of the slab, so the stain will take.
3. Slab must be free of all curing compounds, sealers, or coatings, at the time of application.
4. Thoroughly clean existing concrete with **Emerge** and patch any small chipped or broken areas of concrete. PLEASE NOTE: Patched areas will accept the stain differently than the surrounding area of existing concrete. **Brickform Microtopping** can be applied over the existing concrete to provide a new surface to stain. You can add integral color to the microtopping and stain over the new colored surface to achieve dramatic results. Or you can stain over the natural color of the microtopping which is available in gray or white.
5. Always do a mock up using the same materials and methods you will use when you do the project. If you are staining an existing concrete floor, try to do a test area on the same slab. If there are areas that are going to end up being covered up with tile, cabinets, etc., that is a perfect area to test. This will give you the best idea of how the stain will take on that particular slab. If you are going to apply **Brickform Microtopping** over the slab, make a sample board over cement board or masonite, and stain it. Use the same combination of sealer and/or wax that you plan to use when you do the project.

Preparation – Exterior Floors

1. Same rules as interior preparations.
2. Broom finished concrete can be stained, but will not show as much depth of color as smooth slab.
3. Stain can be harmful to plants, siding, act... Protect sensitive property before staining.

Sealer Removal – If Needed

1. If sealers, coatings, paint, carpet glue residue or other substance is found that will block penetration of acid stain, it must be removed.
2. Use **Soy Gel** to remove paint or sealer. Use **Bean e Doo** to remove carpet glue or mastic. It is very important to strip 100% of the area and test the surface after to make sure no residue is present to inhibit stain penetration. Clean the slab with **Emerge** after using either **Soy Gel** or **Bean e Doo** to remove any remaining residue.
3. Shot blasting and grinding may also be used. Concrete should be blasted and ground to a light texture. Medium or heavy texture will show aggregate and provide a rough surface that will not take stain evenly. If you have to shot blast or grind you will most likely have to use **Brickform Microtopping** in order to get a suitable surface to stain.
4. It is very important to inspect the area after grinding or blasting to verify that 100% of the sealer has been removed. Any missed areas will show because the stain will not penetrate in any areas where the coating is not totally removed.
5. Scrape and clean all paint, dry wall mud, mortar or any other material on the floor before staining. **Emerge** may be used to remove grease and oil spots, but must be rinsed thoroughly. A rotary floor machine with a sanding screen does a nice job of removing this type of debris from the floor. It also works well on floors that are hard troweled or “burned in”. The sanding screen opens up the pores so the slab will accept the stain.
6. A simple test for floor preparation; if water beads on the surface, acid stain will not penetrate.
7. Mask off furniture, walls and other sensitive areas before staining. Acid Stain can damage wood work or tile floors.
8. Set stain containers on plastic to avoid dripping or “ring stains” from the sprayers or containers.

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Application –

1. Using an acid resistant pump sprayer, nylon brush, rag or sponge. Apply the stain to a dry concrete surface. The most common method is to spray with an all plastic, acid resistant pump sprayer. Saturate the surface but do not puddle. If you do puddle the stain, it will end up being a dark spot. After spraying the first coat of stain, allow it to dry. Although the drying time will vary depending on conditions, this usually takes a couple of hours. Spray a second coat of stain over the existing coat using the same method as before.
2. Multiple colors can be achieved by applying different colors of stain simultaneously or in multiple coats.

Cleaning –

1. After the surface has completely dried, the slab can be rinsed off and neutralized. It is a good idea to scrub the surface with TSP and water or baking soda and water. This will neutralize any remaining acid. Rinse with clean water and scrub the surface to completely remove all of the residue from the surface. You should be able to rub a white rag over the surface and not pick up any color. If the rag is clean then you have removed all the residue.
2. An auto floor scrubber is a good option for cleaning, especially if you are staining a large area.
3. An alternative dry method of cleaning is also available. When the stain is completely dry, use a rotary floor machine with a scrubbing pad (**Not a Stripping Pad**). Vacuum up loose material and mop the floor with baking soda and water to neutralize any remaining acid. Rinse thoroughly and use the white rag test mentioned above to make sure all residue has been removed.

Sealing & Waxing–

1. Seal with two thin coats of **JS Crystal Clear Cure & Seal** after the surface has completely dried. This typically takes 24-36 hours, but may vary depending on conditions.
2. Solvent base acrylic sealers like **JS Crystal Clear Cure & Seal** will deepen the color more than water base sealers.
3. On interior applications, the surface should be maintained with either **Kemiko Buff on Wax or Kemiko Mop on Wax**. The wax becomes a sacrificial top coat. If you do not maintain your interior floors with wax, the sealer will show scuff marks.

Staining Overlays –

1. Overlays can be acid stained as long as they are cement based. **Brickform Microtopping** is a perfect microtopping to acid stain. Overlays are typically acid stained the following day they are applied.
2. Typically acid stain colors turn out lighter and brighter than standard concrete. Therefore it is a good idea to dilute your first application with water. You can always increase the concentration of stain if you want the color to be darker.
3. Underlayments typically should not be stained. First of all, they are not meant to provide a wear surface. They are designed to level the floor so tile, carpet, or another topping can be applied over it.