
Best Application Practices

Vital Coat's Guide for obtaining best results when applying concrete sealers



Vital Coat Sealers and Coatings



VITAL  COAT[®]
PREMIUM CONCRETE SEALERS

Application Best Practice

Vital Coat Concrete sealers provide Vital Protection for your concrete from exposure to harsh weather, water, grease and oil stains, abrasion and deicing salts. They can also help bring out the natural beauty of your surfaces. In addition, Vital Coat sealers help save money on maintenance by making it easier to clean and less often. This is why it is important to choose the correct sealer for surface and follow the correct steps when applying. Each step will have an impact on the final outcome. Following are some tips for applying concrete sealer properly.

Below is best practice guide on how to seal concrete:

1. Remove all oil, grease, stains, dirt, and dust from the concrete
2. Strip any existing sealer from the surface
3. Open up the concrete with an etching solution
4. Ensure use of either Topical or Penetrating Type Sealer.
5. Apply a thin coat of sealer using a roller or sprayer
6. Wait for the first layer of sealer to dry
7. Apply a second coat in the opposite direction
8. Allow the sealer to fully dry before walking or driving on your concrete
9. Always follow the specific instructions recommended on the label or on the Technical Data Sheet since they may differ from the general guidelines given here.

When to Seal Concrete

When you apply sealer can be important as well. Here are some guidelines:

- Allow new concrete to cure completely (Refer to Product Labels).
- Most sealers must be applied under dry conditions. Applying to damp concrete could cause haziness or loss of adhesion.
- Air temperatures should be above 50°F during sealer application and for at least 24 hours after.

Preparing Concrete for Sealing

Surface preparation before applying a sealer to existing concrete is extremely important. All oil, grease, stains, dirt, and dust must be removed or they may prevent the sealer from adhering properly. Also, if a sealer is being applied over a different brand of sealer, most manufacturers advise removing all traces of previously used sealers, since the products may not be compatible. Some manufacturers recommend etching the surface first with an etching solution to ensure the best adhesion

How to Apply Concrete Sealer

Using the right tools is critical to achieving the best coverage rate and sealer thickness for optimal performance. The two most common methods of applying sealers to concrete surfaces are by roller or sprayer, often depending on whether the sealer is solvent- or water-based. Always refer to the manufacturer's specific application guidelines.

Whether you are rolling or spray applying a sealer, always strive for maximum coverage. The typical coverage rate is 250 to 300 square feet per gallon, depending on the porosity of the concrete.

How Many Coats of Concrete Sealer?

The most important rule to remember is that less is more. It's best to apply two thin coats, making sure the sealer doesn't puddle or form uneven, thick areas. When applying a second coat of sealer, apply it in the opposite direction (or perpendicular) to the first coat to ensure even coverage. Wait to apply the second coat of sealer for the time recommended by the manufacturer (typically two to four hours).

Concrete Care Guide

If you want to keep your concrete looking great for a long time after sealing, follow the following steps as well as manufacturer's recommendations found on the Technical Data Sheets.

REMOVE STAINS IMMEDIATELY. Although your concrete sealer will help protect your concrete, it's still a good idea to clean stains and spills from concrete as soon as they happen. For example, if you notice that your car leaked oil on your concrete driveway, clean the oil from the driveway as soon as possible. This will help prevent any discoloration or staining from occurring, which will help your concrete look better.

AVOID EPOSURE TO THE WRONG CHEMICALS. It's very important that you refrain from using certain chemicals on your concrete. For example, certain chemicals can actually work through the sealer and harm the concrete. Fertilizers can also stain your concrete, so be sure to remove any excess or spillage from your concrete right away. You should also be sure to use a cleaner specific to concrete, as some household products may do more harm than good. Make sure to thoroughly read instructions and disclaimers on products before using on concrete.

Appropriately maintaining your concrete can ensure you have a good-looking slab for an extended period of time.

