

Step by Step Instructions

Please read thoroughly!

Surface Preparation: Remove carpet, tile, linoleum or any other substrate on your concrete floor. All glue, paint or any other substance staining the floor must be removed in order for the acid stain to penetrate the concrete. Most times this can be done with a stripper or chemical cleaner – NEVER USE MURATIC ACID ON CONCRETE BEFORE APPLYING THE STAIN. If you are able to get the surface clean but the stain is still there, you can rent a floor buffer with a sanding attachment to sand the surface stains. Be careful not to sand too far down, you will lose the cement paste that reacts with the stain. If you cannot remove all the stains, as stated earlier, your floor will just have “character”. The end result of your project depends on how clean you get your concrete. If your floor is bare or has just been stripped, you can clean it with SurfPrep and water which will open the pores for better reaction and color development.

Application: Do a test area (in a closet, under where the cabinets will go etc...), let it dry a minimum of 4 hours, sweep off the residue and hose off or use a mop and bucket with a wet/dry vacuum if indoors. In order to get an indication of how your floor takes acid stain, wet the test area and this will “pop” out the color to show you what the final sealed floor will look like. If the acid stain appears to have had little effect, your concrete may be too dirty, previously sealed, have a waterproofing agent in it or be too heavily weathered to have sufficient reactive materials. You can try a second coat and use a stiff bristled brush to “work in” the stain, if this still does not work; you will need to do a “skim coat” with SLICK’EM and then acid stain. You may want to consider consulting a contractor for the skim coat and acid staining procedure if you feel uncertain. If the stain is lighter than you want, you can apply a second coat scrubbing it in with a stiff bristled brush and then spraying another coat over that to hide any brush marks. Always work wet-to-wet; which means making sure the edges stay wet when overlapping the stain. Apply the stain with NON-METALLIC EQUIPMENT, such as a plastic garden sprayer, brush, broom etc... choose cooler temperatures as opposed to the hotter part of the day.

Clean up: When the stain has set for a minimum of 4 hours, sweep up as much residue with a broom before rinsing as you can to expedite clean up. Use a mop, bucket of water and a wet/dry vacuum to clean up the residue water and get it off the concrete. You will need to repeat this process possibly several times to ensure you have gotten all residues up. The rinse water still has the ability to stain, so be careful of run off. When the rinse water becomes clear you can test the concrete by wiping it with a white cloth. If your white cloth shows no color or residue you are ready to neutralize the acid stain by mopping the floor with a solution of 1 cup ammonia to 5 gallons of water.

Sealing: Sealing is necessary for the floor to bring out the color and protect the concrete. Apply the sealer when the floor is dry. Drying time may vary depending on how much water was used to clean your concrete. You can spray the sealer with a metal airless, HVLP sprayer or you can roll it down with a ¼” thin nap phenolic core (hard plastic-like core) roller. Because flat sealed surfaces can be slippery when wet you may want to add GET-A-GRIP, a slip resistant additive to your sealer for outdoor applications such as patios and walkways. YOU WILL HAVE TO RE-SEAL YOUR CONCRETE EVERY FEW YEARS AS THE SEALER WEARS OFF WITH TIME AND TRAFFIC.

Maintenance: All sealed floors can scratch over time and wear down or become dull. Two coats of CHERRY WAX applied to interior floors after your sealer is fully dry will help protect your floor and form a sacrificial coat for the sealer. You can then apply the CHERRY WAX at your discretion to maintain your floor.

Safety: Remember this is an acid. PROTECT yourself from accidental splashes, spills and fumes with gloves and eye protection. Keep a 5-gallon bucket of water close to minimize splashes onto skin or unwanted surface areas. Protect vegetation and all other surfaces by using plastic etc... Do not inhale fumes from acid or sealer.