

Do It Yourself Concrete Staining Guide

Thanks for stopping by our site and taking a look around, we appreciate your time. We have tried to make this staining guide as simple as possible but if there is anyway you can see to improve it please let me know personally at help@concrete-floor-stains.com.



When you purchase our products you will receive my personal cell phone number to which you can call, text or email me with any questions you may have before and during your application process.

We realize this may seem like a complicated process, it really isn't, but we're here for you every step of the way.

Thanks, John Groom.

A. Preparation of Existing Concrete Surface

Curing agents, sealers, paints, coatings, waxes or water repellents must be removed prior to the concrete acid stain application. Curing agents are products that are sprayed on the concrete after it is poured to help hold in moisture during the curing process. You may not be aware that they are there.

An easy test to find out if they are there or if there is any kind of sealer on the concrete is to pour a small glass of water onto the concrete surface and spread it around so that it coverage approximately 1-2 sq. ft. . Let the water sit for about 5 minutes and then check to see if it is absorbing into the concrete or is just beading up on the top.

A good indication that it is soaking into the concrete is a slight darkening of the color of the concrete.

Mechanical methods of removal are not advised as they may scratch the surface leaving unsightly patterns of scratches in the surface.

Older concrete surfaces also need to be tested for acceptance of the acid stain. The cleaned surface must be penetrable by water. Again, if water beads on the surface and is not readily absorbed into the concrete, mild acidic detergents such as our [Dyna-Blue](#) concrete renovator may be of assistance in your concrete acid stain application. Never acid etch concrete to be acid stained. This will use up the free lime in the concrete and leave you with a surface that is not stainable for concrete acid stain application.

B. New Concrete:

Freshly poured concrete should be sufficiently cured, a minimum of thirty days before concrete acid stain application. If score patterns are desired, a diamond blade grinder may be used to score various patterns, borders or designs onto the surface prior to, or after concrete acid stain application. If light colored grout lines are desired score after staining process is complete.

Freshly poured or recently poured concrete needs to be scrubbed thoroughly, sometimes more thoroughly than old concrete due to what is known as latency, this is the "dust", if you will, that remains on top of the concrete after it is poured and cured.

This latency will not allow the concrete stain to penetrate as is needed to provide a beautiful concrete acid stain application so we need to use a floor maintainer (buffer) with a black or green scrub pad and TSP (trisodium phosphate) or our favorite, Dyna Blue, to scrub and shop vac the floor clean.

C. Cleaning of Concrete:

These next two steps will take you from having a good concrete stained floor to a **Fantastic** concrete acid stain application. As we say in the Decorative Concrete industry, application of the pretty stuff is easy but the preparation of the concrete is what makes the difference and boy will this make a difference as you'll see and be very happy you took the time and effort to do it.



First we need to scrape the paint and other things off the concrete before the concrete stain process, you will not find them all but when you wet the concrete you will see everything as we see here, we have scrubbed the concrete and are now vacuuming. This a great time to have a razor scraper handy as the materials that are left on the floor after scrubbing have been sitting in water and Dyna-Blue solution and will be much easier to scrape off now.



Be careful with the razor scraper and you may want to place it in the little holder for the extra attachments on the shop-vac if you have one.

This is a very important step and most manufacturers and even many "acid stain professionals" don't take this next step in the concrete stain process, which is critical to a beautiful concrete acid stain application for your floor.

D. Citrus-Magic

If the floor has some oil or grease or really anything questionable on it we recommend that you clean the floor with [Citrus-Magic](#). Dilute with 8 parts water and scrub the floor with a black pad and a buffer. Rinse and use a shop-vac to remove residue, if possible always use a shop vac as this will pull the residue and dirt out of the pores of the concrete.

This step is only necessary if your concrete is extremely dirty. If your concrete is normal or just slightly dirty the following process is all that is normally needed.

E. Dyna-Blue

Next dilute [Dyna-Blue](#), 2 parts water to 1 part [Dyna Blue](#). If your concrete is only slightly dirty you can dilute 3 to 1. **(2 to 1-600 sq. ft. coverage-3 to 1 900 sq.ft. coverage)** Moisten the concrete and use a garden sprayer with all plastic inserts to spray the dilution over the entire floor and scrub lightly. Make sure to have proper ventilation. Let the mixture stand for approximately 5 minutes or until all fizzing and bubbles have ceased.

Use a buffer with a black pad and scrub the floor thoroughly. Flood the floor with water and shop vac the floor to achieve the cleanest floor possible for concrete acid stain application. The reason we recommend using a shop vac to clean up the water as opposed to just mopping the floor is the shop vac gets up all the dirt and crud out of the pores of the concrete.

The whole point of cleaning the floor is to give the acid stain the opportunity to introduce the metal salts in the stain to the free lime in the concrete. This is what causes the color change.

If you have dirt and dirty water left over from the mopping how can you achieve the best result. Quick answer, You Can't.

The buffer can be rented from your local rental shop or most Home Depots or Lowe's stores now have a rental shop (about \$40.00 per day).

F. Coverage

Make sure that your concrete is completely dry. This sounds like an obvious statement but you would be very surprised to know how many folks take this for granted. When we say dry we mean that it is better to leave the floor overnight to dry unless it is summer and the AC is on and a few fans are turned on.

The reason for this precaution is that is if the concrete is wet or even slightly damp this will dilute the stain and probably require you to spray again, therefore this is essential in the concrete acid stain application process.

One coat of [Artistic Decor Stain](#) is all that is usually needed. You may feel that you want to go back over the area and spray a little more in some areas. Artistic Decor Stain can be applied at a rate of 1 part water to 1 part stain.

The coverage rate will be around **300 sq. ft. square feet per gallon**. When applicable after you have tested the stains in an inconspicuous area, you may choose to dilute the stains more to achieve a slightly lighter color. Artistic Decor Stain are what we refer to as [true color stains](#) and will not turn towards an orange color as they are diluted as most other acid stains will.

G. Artistic Décor Stain Application

We recommend that you use an acid rated [respirator](#) for the application of acid stain if you do not have adequate ventilation and fans blowing. Although our acid stain is ORMD Consumer Commodity rated we also like to be cautious with your health as well as our own.

For an excellent concrete acid stain application all surfaces must be completely dry, prepared and tested as described above. Artistic Décor Stain should be shaken well and poured directly into a plastic sprayer with internal acid resistant plastic parts.

The sprayer should be continuously pumped to keep a constant pressure while applying concrete acid stain.

Hold the tip of the sprayer approximately eighteen to twenty-four inches from the concrete surface and spray onto the slab, being careful not to let the liquid drip out of the spray tip as this may leave visible drip marks on the concrete.



There is no need to hold the sprayer closer to the ground unless you might be "working" an edge next to a wall.

We recommend that you use a car wash brush with nylon bristles to gently scrub the concrete stain into the concrete **but it is not necessary if you are applying the concrete stain yourself**, just wet the concrete thoroughly with the stain.

After the first coat is applied and has completely dried, a second coat can be applied if a darker color is desired.

We recommend that you walk on the surface in clean socks or surgical booties (available at Home Depot) so as not to leave "shoe prints" on the surface. The

second coat of concrete stain should be allowed to work into the concrete for 1-2 hours.

H. Neutralizing the acid stain

Due to the unique nature of [Artistic Decor Stains](#) neutralization of the stain is not necessary as with most all other acid stains. Plain water will provide as much neutralization as is necessary. Just simply wet the floor, scrub lightly to loosen the slight amount of residue that remains and shop-vac to ensure you remove any residue, usually there is little if any residue.

Our stains and method of application will save you 1/3 of the labor involved with acid staining your concrete. I don't know about you but I'm all about saving time and money.

Not only are our stains more economical but they will save you time also. It doesn't get any better than that.

If you are using another brand of acid stain check with the manufacturer as to their recommended method of neutralization. **Do not use our WB Concrete Sealer on any surface that has been neutralized with ammonia.**

Make sure that you shop-vac your floor no matter whose brand of stain you use. This is another step that the so-called experts don't advocate in the concrete acid stain application process, but it is essential to having a surface that your sealer can bond to permanently.



Your floor may appear dry but we would recommend that you leave the floor overnight with the AC on if possible and a fan to circulate the air.

The fan doesn't necessarily have to be directed onto the floor, this is just to get the air moving and get the moisture out of the area.

I. Application of Sealers

After the above step is completed you are ready to sealer your concrete. We recommend using a water-based sealer such as our [Clear-Coat WB sealer](#). This will provide you with a sealer that will protect the stained concrete and will increase the intensity of the color of the stained concrete.

Normal water-based sealers do not increase the color intensity and will leave you with a "terra-cotta pot look". Two coats should be applied with Benjamin Moore 3/8" nap shed-resistant paint roller. If you don't have a Benjamin Moore close any quality paint store should have a comparable roller. Apply at a coverage rate of 250 - 300 square feet per gallon per coat.

If you are going to have a lot of foot traffic or are in a commercial location and want a high gloss shine we recommend you use our [Clear Cover Solvent Concrete Sealer](#). This sealer comes in 20%, 25% and 30% solids.



We normally recommend you apply one coat of 20% to ensure good penetration followed by one coat of 30%. This will provide a long lasting finish when coupled with a good maintenance program of proper cleaning and applications of floor finish (what most folks refer to as wax).

We recommend that you apply three coats of Floor finish as the last step in the concrete acid stain application process, to act as a sacrificial lamb for the sealer. We recommend

Another great floor finish to use is Zep High Traffic Floor Finish which is available at Home Depot in the cleaning aisle.

The cost is around \$15.00/gal and should be applied with a rayon blend mop which is also available at Home Depot. This will also provide your slip resistance as all waxes are manufactured to what is call "co-efficient of friction" of 0.05 or greater. This is the standard the government requires.

J. Maintenance (Low)

Floors treated with the [Artistic Decor Stain](#) System need only to be swept or cleaned when they become dirty.

K. Precautions

The Artistic Decor Stains are a corrosive liquid and should be handled with caution. For more information, refer to the Artistic Decor Stains Material Safety Data Sheet. Respirators and goggles or safety glasses are recommended

L. Limitations and expectations.

Concrete acid stains will not hide cracks, blemishes, chalk lines (red and blue in particular) or other construction errors. The colors produced by the Artistic Decor Stains acid staining system will vary from surface to surface. Take the time

to test the stains on your slab in an out of the way place to determine the color and the dilution you want to use. These color differences are dependent upon chemical makeup, lime content, porosity of the concrete, age of the slab, exposure to the elements, texture and color of the concrete, application methods, experience of the applicator and the number of coats applied. Some concrete surfaces cannot be successfully stained.

Call us for info at 770-486-2570, if we don't answer please leave us your contact info and we will return your call ASAP.

I don't know about you but I hate it when I can't get through to anyone. When you purchase our stains you will receive a private email address that comes directly to my Blackberry which I carry pretty much 24/7 and I will do my very best to get back you with 1 hour.

M. Size

Eight standard colors of [Artistic Décor Stains](#) are available in one and five gallon containers.

N. Warranty

Artistic Decor Stains warrants this product to be free from manufacturing defects. Since no control is exercised over its application and use, Artistic Decor Stains makes no warranty, either express or implied, concerning this product. Seller's and manufacturer's obligation shall be limited to replacing or refunding that portion of the product which is proven to be defective. We stand behind our products and will do everything possible to make your purchase and use of our products as productive as possible.