

ACID STAIN SYSTEM

INTRODUCTION

Acid stains are the most traditional way to stain a concrete floor. Metallic salts in the stain react with the concrete floor and becomes a permanent part of the floor that will not peel from the surface. These stains produce a mottled earth toned palette ranging from tans and browns, to black, greens, terracotta's and blues. These stains can be applied to both new and old concrete. They are also UV stable and can be applied both inside and outside. Remember these stains are semitransparent and are intended to enhance the existing surface. They will not hide cracks or damage, but will likely give it some unique character.... that's why it's used!

There are three basic components to properly staining a concrete floor:

1. Floor Prep
2. Staining
3. Sealing

FLOOR PREP

Preparing the concrete surface is the most important step in the project. Paints, coatings, glues, and other contaminates that are left on the surface will show after the stain is applied.

Prep can be done by mechanically grinding the floor with a planetary concrete grinder from a rental store. *(if you are in the Kansas City area we have [this tool available to rent](#))* The other method is to utilize our "Concrete DNA Satellite" diamond pads *(30 grit)* underneath a small floor buffer. Using diamond tooling is the preferred for prepping a floor. Diamond tools do two things: it is very effective and removing contaminants, and it creates a profile for the sealer to better bond.

FLOOR PREP CONTINUED

The other way to prep a concrete floor is by using ConcreteFloorSupply.com specialty cleaners depending on the floor conditions

1. Hot Strip = to remove black glue and paints
2. Strip-It= to remove yellow carpet glue and other mastics, as well as cures and acrylic sealers
3. Super Blue= to open the concrete (safe alternative to muriatic acid) This should be considered mandatory if you're not using diamond tools to prep. **Cut with water min. 1:9 (1-gallon Super Blue to 9-gallons of water); this is a must when you're using Super Blue which is a safe alternative to muriatic acid.**
4. Snot= to remove coatings and paint on floors
5. Citra Pro= cleaner/degreaser to use on its own or after the above cleaners

IT IS SUGGESTED TO USE THE CLEANERS WITH A LOW SPEED FLOOR BUFFER AND A BLACK CLEANING PAD. YOUR GOAL IS TO CLEAN ALL CONTAMINATES OFF THE FLOOR AND TO GIVE THE FLOOR A "CHALKBOARD" (MATTE) APPEARANCE AFTER IT IS PREPPED AND DRIED.

Clean the floor with the above chosen cleaners and allow the surface to dry. Remember prep work generally requires some trial and error when there are previous coatings, sealers, glues, etc. Feel free to reach out to us about this.

Tape and mask off any areas you want to protect from stain overspray.

STAINING

Acid stain can be applied in many ways. The important thing to remember is to apply it the same manner throughout the floor surface.

I.E. DON'T START BY SPRAYING IT ON THE FLOOR AND SPREADING IT WITH A BROOM TO SPRAYING IT ON THE FLOOR TO SPREADING IT WITH A MOP.

You will get a different look when you change application methods 'mid-stream'.

STAINING CONTINUED

NOTE: BEFORE STAINING YOUR FLOOR IT IS BEST TO DO A TEST/SAMPLE AREA SOMEWHERE INCONSPICUOUS I.E. A CLOSET OR AN AREA THAT WILL BE COVERED IN CARPET ETC. WE DO HAVE SAMPLE KITS WITH ALL OUR STAINS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.

STEP 1

We recommend putting the stain in a one-gallon pump sprayer (*a cheap one will work fine*). Make sure to test that the pattern is going to be what you want before you start spraying stain on your floor. Spray into a bucket or test spray a closet or inconspicuous area before doing your floor **ALWAYS TEST!**

STEP 2

Spray the stain onto the floor in a manner that covers the concrete 100%. Keep the same spray movements throughout the job. If desired the stain can be sprayed on the floor and spread around with a broom, mop, etc. creating decorative effects.

STEP 3

Allow the stain to dry and put on another coat of stain if desired.

STEP 4

After the stain has dried and is done reacting with the floor (*typically 2 to 8 hours depending on conditions*) the floor should be rinsed with water or wet mopped to get any residue left behind by the acid stain

SEALING

Seal with two coats of Concrete Floor Supply sealer

1. EZ Seal (water based single component, super easy to apply, dries in minutes, glossy)
2. WB Urethane Matte (2 component matte finish urethane, very durable and shows wear and tear the least of all sealers)
3. Poly 80 Slow (2 component polyaspartic polyurea that provides a glossy, thick look. Very chemical resistant. Great work time)

STEP 1

Allow the floor to dry overnight before applying EZ Seal (water based), or allow the floor to dry 24 hours if applying 2 component coatings. **ALWAYS TEST AN AREA**

NOTE: IF THERE ARE AREAS OF THE FLOOR THAT DIDN'T REACT AS WELL OR THE COLOR IS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT THAN DESIRED OUR INSTANT GRATIFICATION DYES OR WATER BASED DYE IS A GREAT PRODUCT TO DO A LIGHT COAT ON THE FLOOR TO CORRECT THESE ISSUES.

STEP 2 – OPTIONAL BUT RECOMMENDED

After sealer has dried for 48 hours apply EZ Glow floor polish

1. One gallon typically covers over 1k square feet and offers great scuff protection for pennies a sq. ft.
2. Spray on the floor and microfiber to apply