

# Acid Stain Instructions



***Please read this information carefully so you can maximize your staining experience.***

Acid stains are made from hydrochloric acid, wetting agents and metallic ions. When this solution is placed on concrete, it colors the concrete by chemically combining the metallic ions with the particles in the concrete to form oxides. The finish will not fade or chip – it is permanent. DO A TEST AREA SO YOU HAVE AN IDEA OF WHAT YOU WILL GET ON THE LARGER SCALE. This procedure is not a dye technique like staining leather or wood. The acid stains may not even appear the color they will produce until it has been allowed to remain on the concrete for 4 hours or more and is wet/and or sealed. For example, the English Red has a dark greenish tint when in the bottle.

Acid stains, unlike paints, are not opaque—they are translucent. You can expect there to be lighter and darker areas as well as variations, similar to marble or flagstone. Along with the naturally occurring variations and marbling, any blemishes and imperfections in your concrete simply add *character and charm*. Even cracks look great! Some designers chip and scar floors before they are stained so the floors have an aged appearance, creating more *ambiance*.

## ***Step By Step Instructions***

Please read thoroughly!

**Surface Preparation:** Remove carpet, tile, linoleum or any other covering on your concrete floor. All glue, paint or any other substance must be removed in order for the acid stain to contact and react with the concrete. Use a chemical stripper or cleaner. DO NOT USE MURIATIC ACID to clean the concrete. If you are able to get the surface clean but the contaminant

is still there, use a floor buffer with a sanding attachment (available from rental yard) to remove the substance. Be careful not to sand too far down, you will lose the cement paste required for the reaction. Any remaining contaminant may add *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 Surf Prep and water which will open the pores for better reaction and color development. (Note: Leave Surf Prep on no longer than 10-15 minutes and do not allow to dry.)

**Application:** Do a test area (closet or where cabinets will go) and allow to dry a minimum of 4 hours, and collect as much dry residue with broom or vacuum. Then wet the floor. Thoroughly remove residue by mop and bucket or wet vacuum. The wet floor will yield an approximation of the final color. Always work wet-to-wet; which means making sure the edges stay wet when overlapping the stain. Apply the stain with plastic garden sprayer with NON-METALLIC parts. For maximum color we recommend applying enough stain to completely wet the surface. Immediately agitate with a brush or broom and then spray again—lightly to hide brush marks. Areas where the stain puddled will be darker. Using two colors works best when one is applied over the other while the first is still wet. The lighter color is applied first with the darker color sprayed on top. To add a second color after the first has dried, dampen the floor with water then apply the second color, allowing it to bleed and mottle naturally. Choose cooler temperatures to allow the stain more time to soak in and to color deeper. If the acid stain changes the concrete color more in some areas than others look for differences in the surface texture; the presence of sealer; or a very *tight* finish which could be addressed with full strength Surf Prep. Waterproofing

agents that are added at the concrete plant can lessen the stain's effectiveness. You can try a second coat of stain, perhaps full strength. If this fails consider creating a *new canvas* with SLICK'EM and then staining or ask us for the Contractor Referral List.

**Clean up:** When the stain has set for a minimum of 4 hours, neutralize with 1 cup of ammonia to 5 gallons of water. During this process, be careful not to walk on, or track wet footprints on any dry concrete areas, for it may leave permanent marks. Use a mop and bucket or a wet/dry vacuum to clean up the residue water. This rinsing process will be done several times. If rubbing the surface with a damp white rag shows color then repeat, if your white cloth shows no color or residue you are done. The residue and rinse water need to be disposed of in accordance with local codes and policies.

**Sealing:** Sealing is necessary for the floor to bring out the color and protect the concrete. Apply the sealer when the floor is completely clean and dry. We recommend you do not seal before 24 hours after last rinse. You can spray the sealer with a metal airless, HVLP sprayer or you can roll it down with a 1/4" thin nap phenolic core (hard plastic-like core) roller. Because flat sealed surfaces can be slippery when wet you may want to add a slip resistant additive, such as Get-A-Grip to your sealer for outdoor applications such as patios and walkways. After being sealed we recommend 24 hours for light traffic and 3 days before moving things back; however a full cure is 7 days.

**Maintenance:** Remove sand and debris on a regular basis as these become abrasive underfoot. For interior floors only, we recommend 2 coats of Cherry Wax to form a protective sacrificial finish. This can be applied 72 hours after the sealer has been applied. Cherry Wax maybe repeated as needed to maintain the desired finish. For exterior surfaces, apply a new coat of sealer every few years with a slip resistant additive.

**Safety:** Remember, Sedona Acid Stain Concentrate 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. Dispose of excess stain and residue as required by governmental regulations. Read Technical Data Sheet and SDS before starting.

## What To Use, Pricing & Coverage Rates

### Pre-stain Preparation

#### Surf Prep:

- ▶ 1 gallon \$46.80, covers approx. 800 sq. ft.
- ▶ 5 gallon \$192.00, covers approx. 4000 sq. ft.

Dilution rate: 3 part water to 1 part Surf Prep for acid stain prep.

*Consider using full strength on slick floors that were power troweled to allow the acid stain to react and for the sealer to adhere properly.*

### Acid Stains

#### Sedona Acid Stain Concentrate:

- ▶ 1 gallon \$51.01, covers approx. 400 sq. ft. when diluted 1:1 with water.
- ▶ 10, 4 oz sample bottles of all colors \$45.00—perfect for testing...try em' all!
- ▶ 4 oz single color sample bottles \$7.50—for testing.

*Keep in mind that new concrete always stains darker so you may dilute with water accordingly*

### Sealers

#### Supreme 2500 Medium Gloss:

- ▶ 1 gallon \$43.16, covers 200 sq. ft.
- ▶ 5 gallon \$168.34, covers 1000 sq. ft.

#### EpoSeal 20:

- ▶ 1 gallon \$42.50, covers approx. 250 – 400 sq. ft.
- ▶ 5 gallon \$166.00, covers approx. 1250 – 2000 sq. ft.

*This is for applying two coats.*

### Slip Resistant Additive

#### Get-A-Grip:

- ▶ 8 ounces \$11.99, enough for 5 gallons of sealer.

### Floor Maintenance

#### Cherry Wax:

- ▶ 1 gallon \$33.42, covers 2000 sq. ft.
- ▶ 5 gallon \$141.91

*Use Cherry Wax (Gloss or Matte) to protect and maintain the sealer, just mop Cherry Wax on your interior floor with a rayon (not cotton) mop or lambs wool applicator and let it dry.*



See our Acid Stain videos

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