

Stamped Concrete Installation Guide

**JOBSITE
SUPPLY**

CONSTRUCTION IDEAS AT WORK

Preparation –

1. Formwork should be installed the same as a traditional concrete pour (Follow ACI guidelines).
2. Drive the nail stakes down even or below the top of the formwork so they don't get in the way of your stamps.
3. Protect all adjoining areas with plastic or other barrier material. **DO NOT** use masking or duct tape on chalked aluminum siding as it will damage the finish.
4. A thick mixture of powdered detergent and water sprayed on the building, (soap scum) will also protect the adjoining surfaces from staining. Rinse detergent layer off structure being protected when stamped concrete is being cleaned (See cleaning section below).

Concrete Placement –

1. Place, screed, and float the concrete the same as with a traditional slab following ACI guidelines.
2. Run a preliminary edger tool around the concrete formwork.
3. Float or trowel marks deeper than 1/8th inch should be worked out before stamping.

Coloring Concrete –

If you are using Integral Color go to the Release Agent section below.

If you are using Color Hardener proceed with the following steps.

1. Roll the unopened bucket on its side to loosen the material.
2. Apply color hardener once the bleed water has stopped.
3. Broadcast the color hardener evenly on the surface, without leaving piles. **One pail of color hardener should cover approximately 100 square feet total.**
4. Broadcast about 2/3 of the pail over a 100 square foot area on the first broadcast.
5. Let the color hardener wet out (until color darkens), then float the surface with a wood bull float until the colored surface has closed up. **Float or trowel marks more than 1/8th inch deep must be worked out prior to stamping.**
6. Use **Fritz Pak Control Finish** to keep the surface from drying out too quickly which causes shrinkage cracks. This is particularly important on windy or extremely sunny days. It is a good idea to always have this on hand.
7. If tearing of the surface happens, re-float the slab until the concrete closes up. **Fritz Pak Control Finish** may be used to add moisture. **DO NOT add water to the surface as it will weaken and discolor the surface.**
8. Broadcast and bull float the second pass of color hardener using the remaining 1/3 of the color hardener as stated above. It may be necessary to broadcast a third application of color hardener if there are still areas where the color has not fully absorbed into the slab.

Release Agent – Powdered Release (This method produces the most realistic highlighting)

1. Apply a thin coat of powdered release agent to the surface. Release powder should only be thick enough to cover the base color. **One pail of release agent should cover approximately 800- 1000 square feet total.**
2. Broadcast powder release 1 to 2 rows ahead of stamping to minimize waste and blowing powder. This also allows you to touch up areas if necessary, once the release is down you cannot float or trowel over it.
3. Rub some powder release on your stamps to help keep them from sticking to the concrete.
4. **NEVER TROWEL OR BULL FLOAT RELEASE AGENT INTO THE CONCRETE!**



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Liquid Release Agent- *Bubble Gum Release*

1. Liquid release should be applied with a pump sprayer. **Do not pour onto the surface.**
2. Apply a thin coat of liquid release to the stamps before placing them.
3. Also apply a thin coat of liquid release to the immediate area that is going to be stamped. If you apply release too far ahead of where you are stamping it will evaporate before you stamp it. If you apply too much release, the surface can become slippery and cause the stamps to slide out of alignment.
4. Liquid release can be tinted with powdered release agent as an alternative highlighting method.- no more than 1 cup of powder per 3 gallons of liquid release.

Stamping Concrete –

1. Use the appropriate texture skin and apply texture around the edges. This will get texture up to the edges of the formwork.
2. Set out stamps on the ground **BEFORE** stamping to get proper alignment. Stamping into sand is a good way to practice. Get familiar with your stamps before you pour.
3. You should have enough stamps to bridge (cover) the entire row plus one more to start the next row.
4. You are ready to stamp when the stamps will support the weight of workers. If you place your finger into the slab it should be stiff after 1/8”- 1/4” depth.
5. Set the stamps on the surface and walk on them until full texture is achieved, use a tamper when necessary. You should not have to use the tamper in the beginning stages. If you do, then you waited too late to start stamping. Make sure all the edges of the stamp is walked on or tamped before moving to the next mat.
6. Usually one worker is detailing and making sure the area that has just been stamped has adequate texture. A second worker is walking or tamping the stamps to imprint the pattern and texture. The third person is picking up and laying out the stamps. There is also a fourth worker assisting the other workers (washing tools, etc..).
7. Use an S-Tool and the appropriate touch up wheel to tap down concrete that “squeezes” up between mats and also to continue the grout lines up to the edges of the slab.
8. NOTE: Large squeeze joints should be left and cleaned up during cleaning and detailing below

The following steps are performed the next day

Cleaning-

1. Depending on weather conditions and concrete curing, wash off excess release agent in the next 1-3 days. Mix dish soap with water, and use a scrub brush or broom to remove approximately 75% of the excess powder release agent. If there are multiple stamp pours, wait to wash the release off all the pads at the same time to ensure uniform removal of the release.
2. **USE CAUTION IF USING A PRESSURE WASHER**
3. Saw cut the control joints 1/4 the depth of the slab at distances no greater than 2 ½ feet times the thickness of the slab in inches as defined by ACI guidelines.

Detailing-

1. Touch up any grout lines that were missed with the S-tool or touch up wheel. Use a rubbing stone or an angle grinder.
2. *Optional- After the surface is thoroughly dry, use a small paintbrush to rub release into the joints. Then blow off the excess release with an electric leaf blower. This technique will make the grout lines stand out when sealed.*

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Sealing – Solvent Base

1. Apply an even coat of **JS Crystal Clear Cure & Seal** without leaving puddles. A common practice is to thin down the initial coat of sealer with approximately 30% xylene. This allows the first coat of sealer to really anchor into the slab. This also helps prevent the sealer from being applied too thickly which can create cloudy or milky spots once the sealer has dried.
2. **JS Crystal Clear Cure & Seal** should be applied with a good solvent resistant roller, or the combination of spraying with a pump up Chapin sprayer and then back-rolling out the puddles.
3. Apply a second coat of sealer when the first coat is dry and tack free. Be sure to apply a thin coat.

Sealing – Water Base

1. Apply a thin even coat using a good roller or an airless sprayer. Many water base sealers should not be applied with a pump sprayer. Some water base sealers can be applied with a micro-fiber applicator. Always refer to the manufacturers application guidelines.
2. The sealer must be completely dry before applying the second coat. This is more important with water base sealers than solvent base sealers. Water base sealers in general are often more problematic than solvent base. However, they are sometimes necessary when you are applying in an occupied area. Water base sealers do not smell as strong as the solvent base sealers. Also, water base sealers tend to offer a lower gloss.
3. Apply the second coat if needed.

Miscellaneous-

1. Use of ASTM C309 compliant cure and seal products is not advised for decorative concrete. These are the standard cure and seals that are made for use on standard gray concrete. These types of sealers do not have the same UV resistance that **JS Crystal Clear Cure & Seal** provides. Standard ASTM C309 cure and seal will yellow within a few months.

DON'T USE A CHEAP SEALER ON DECORATIVE CONCRETE! You have invested a lot of time and effort in creating a great looking project. Using the wrong type of sealer or applying too much sealer is the most common problem in the decorative concrete industry.