



## Proper Care and Maintenance of Your Restored Concrete Surfaces

Your decorative concrete surface has been sealed. It is stain RESISTANT....not stain PROOF. Stains can become set over time if you do not clean spills of foreign matter as soon as possible.

### Cleaning:

We recommend using water. If you feel a cleaning agent is absolutely necessary a mild soap is acceptable (ie - Dawn dish soap) followed by rinsing with clean water. Never use abrasive or ammonia-based cleaners like Pine-Sol or bleach. Although we don't recommend using a pressure washer, you can, but do not use it over 1200 psi and never use it with a rotating turbo tip.

Tree sap and like residues can be spot cleaned using Goo-Gone or Dissolves-It on an absorbent cloth. Carburetor cleaner can also work well to spot clean road tar and black tire marks. Always flush with clean water after you spot clean with one of these cleaners. Never use MEK, acetone, Xylene, Xylo, Paint Thinner, or any type of solvent based chemical to remove foreign matter. When using a product if you notice it becoming "gummy" stop use immediately.

Mineral and lime deposits, as well as efflorescence, may be cleaned using a solution of one pound TSP (Tri-Sodium Phosphate) per 1 gallon of warm water. Scrub with a push broom or brush, allow it to soak for approximately 15 minutes, then rinse thoroughly with clean water. Spot cleaning with Lime Away (or other like products) is also acceptable, again rinsing thoroughly after cleaning. Note: these methods will work only if the mineral, lime, or efflorescence has not actually eaten into the sealer. Note: Hard water deposits have the potential to discolor decorative surfaces and sealers, therefore direct sprinklers and gutters away to avoid excessive wetting and ensure land is graded to promote run off of water away from these surfaces.

### Care:

DO NOT use rubber backed mats on the concrete. Rubber does not allow for moisture to evaporate naturally and with prolonged use will result in a build up of hard mineral deposits around and under the mat. These deposits will be very difficult, if not impossible, to remove without damaging the sealer and the concrete.

DO NOT place potted plants directly on the finished surface. Use a plant dolly or a plant stand with legs to allow for ventilation. Failure to do so will, again, result in mineral deposits that will permanently discolor the surface. Plant fertilizers can also damage the seal coat. We recommend a plastic tray to catch overwatering.

DO NOT USE DEICING COMPOUND AKA ICE-MELT/ SNOWBLOWERS OR TIRE STUDS. The most common ways people damage their concrete are using ice melt and tire studs. ICE-MELT/SALTS and like products heat up ice rapidly causing the surface temperature to increase quickly, but beneath the surface is the slab of concrete which is still cold. Heating the top is akin to throwing boiling water on your windshield on a 20 degree morning. It shatters and breaks the surface. STUDS on your tires will also mar the surface and break the seal. Our warranty does not cover damage from either of these. We recommend a little sand instead of ice melt and all weather tires instead of studs. Do not use metal shovels or SNOWBLOWERS to remove snow as they can also damage the surface. (If you must be sure to raise the blades to not touch the surface) We recommend an inexpensive plastic snow shovel.

At some point in time it will become necessary for your surface to be resealed. Longevity and performance will depend on the end use of the surface, environmental conditions it is subjected to (moisture, freeze-thaw cycling, UV rays), wear patterns, and other contributing factors. We recommend resealing every 2 to 4 years.

We thank you and appreciate your business! Duane and Kelly Emry

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