



"HOW TO" GUIDE

GREENCOAT

YOUR HOW TO GUIDE TO GREENCOAT STAINING

Being properly prepared is key to any decorative concrete acid staining application. It is estimated that more than 95% of stain jobs that turned out unsatisfactory, resulted from improper or a complete lack of preparation. Please follow this guide as closely as possible for the best results. The first part of being properly prepared is knowing you have in hand all the tools and materials necessary to start and complete the job. Below is a list of the essential tools and materials needed. Please note, when performing a very detailed application, other tools and supplies may be needed for the detailed work.

Essential Tools and Materials needed:

1. Protection for Your Stuff (tape, plastic, etc.)
2. Protection for Yourself (proper clothing, eyewear, and rubber gloves)
3. Floor Prep Materials (water source, soft bristle brush, *Crete Prep*, and a shop vac)
4. Application Materials (HVLP sprayer, airless sprayer, or fine mist poly pump up sprayer.)
5. Sealer (for protection of concrete, use one of **AcidCrete.com's** products for best results)
6. Floor Polish, such as *Crystal Crete*. (interior only, for ultra shine and life of sealer)

Estimating your materials is also very pertinent to assuring a successful job. The best advice is to always over estimate. This way you wont run short on material in the middle of the application. Running short on material in the middle of an application will not only cost you time, but it could result in an undesired look as well. Always know the right amount of square footage of the area intended to be stained. Multiplication of the width and length will give you your approximate square footage. Don't forget to include small areas such as sidewalks, hallways, and any other smaller areas to be stained. Use this square footage number for all materials you will be purchasing. Please refer to the coverage chart available on **AcidCrete.com** for coverages of the materials needed to complete a stain job from start to finish. Please note that if tape is applied to un-sealed stain, when pulled up it may take up some stain and create a discolored line.

When you are sure you have all the tools and materials needed to complete the entire application, the first step is to assure the concrete itself is prepared properly. A good prep cleaner such as *Crete Prep* is recommended. Depending on the concrete and how much cleaning it needs, *Crete Prep* can be diluted up to 1:2 parts water. The newer the concrete and the fewer the stains, the higher the dilution rate. Use full strength on extremely soiled or very tight trowel floors. Apply with a polyethylene (plastic) pump-up sprayer with a coarse spray pattern to avoid inhalation and overspray. Allow *Crete Prep* to soak in for 5-10 minutes. Using a stiff bristle broom, agitate heavy soil and stains then rinse with a neutralizer such as *Neutral Crete*, then rinse 2-3 times with water. Repeat application may be required for some heavier stains. Eliminate standing water with a shop vac. Let concrete dry 24 hours to ensure it is completely dry prior to staining.

Once the floor is dry, be sure to have everything covered that you don't want to stain, and be sure that you are wearing your personal protection to avoid injuries. Do not step on the surface to be stained wearing shoes (oil on the soles could leave shoe prints in the finish, so wear only thick socks until the whole process is completed). *Greencoat Water Based Stain* should shaken or mixed 2-3 minutes, then diluted 1:3 parts with distilled water (use original container to dilute to ensure that no pigment is left) and mixed again prior to application. A test spot in an inconspicuous area (two coats on the same substrate to be stained and sealed) should always be applied prior to staining the entire application. Using an HVLP sprayer (recommended), paint sprayer, or a pump up sprayer with a very fine mist, start in a far corner applying in wavy or circular motions (only enough to wet the concrete) while walking yourself out of the room being stained. Let the *Greencoat Water Based Stain* dry for approximately 4-6 hours and then apply recommended second coat in the same manner. Allow to dry approximately 24 hours (in warmer weather conditions, this time could be drastically cut). One coat may be sufficient depending on owner's specs, however, two coats are recommended for maximum adhesion and color.

Unlike an acid stain, *Greencoat Water Based Stain* does not have to be neutralized, nor does it need to be cleaned before being sealed due to the fact that no residue is left. Once the stain has dried about 24 hours without any moisture, simply seal the stain using one of AcidCrete.com's decorative concrete sealers. At this point, follow the directions found in the "How to Guide to Sealing and Polishing" found online at www.AcidCrete.com.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- ◆ *Greencoat Water Based Stain* is not acid based and is not hazardous to the environment. Recommended for interior only!
- ◆ Old concrete may be harder to stain than new concrete. As concrete ages, it wears, and as it wears, it exposes the natural aggregates in the concrete. Stain will usually only work on the cement portion.
- ◆ If the floor you are planning to stain has been sealed in the past, it will need to be stripped and sanded down to ensure that the stain will be able to stain and penetrate the concrete. This is not guaranteed, but a good test is to pour water on the surface. If it beads the water, it has been sealed. If it does not bead water and the concrete seems to suck it in, chances are it will accept the stain. Not guaranteed though!
- ◆ Every slab of concrete is different! No one who sells any kind of concrete stain can guarantee that the color on the color chart is what will result every time. Test spots are highly recommended.
- ◆ Sealing a stained floor is a must to bring out the true color of the stain and to protect and prolong the life of the concrete. A polish or wax is recommended to protect and prolong the life of the sealer (interior only). Polish and wax will provide great scuff resistance to a great looking stained floor.

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