



Classic COATINGS SYSTEMS

How to stain Concrete using Classic FX Nano & Nano-Hybrid w/b stains

There are many different methods of applying water-base stains. Explained below is the most effective way to complete the task. This is the most basic method that we use for most of the applications.

Surface Preparation

Surface preparation is one of the most important steps of the staining process. Clean the surface with **Classic Super Eco-etch (CW305)** and after 30 seconds power wash with minimum 2600 PSI. Do not allow Super Eco-etch to dry before power washing. Concrete should feel like 100-120 diamond grin. The concrete must be free of debris, dirt, oils, efflorescence & sealer.

If there is efflorescence, use **CW701 Classic Densifier** (refer to TDS).

If there is a sealer, remove with **Classic Stripper CS1000**.

Never clean concrete with muriatic acid.

Often, concrete surfaces inside homes will have drywall, mastic, mud, paint, wood stains, tile adhesives, carpet adhesives, grease, pet stains. These spots will certainly show through - as these get into the pores of the concrete and block the staining process.

Using **Classic Microfiber base overlay**, you can achieve a brand new floor.

Concrete must be cured for 28 days before sealers or stains can be applied.

Different types of concrete surfaces and how to clean each one

- **Broom finished concrete:** Clean twice with **Super Eco-etch**, power wash within 30 seconds with a minimum 2600 PSI. Rinse well.
 - **Sand Blast concrete:** Clean once with **Super Eco-etch**, power wash within 30 seconds with a minimum 2600 PSI. Rinse well.
 - **Stamp concrete:** Clean twice with **Super Eco-etch**, power wash within 30 seconds with a minimum 2600 psi. Rinse well.
1. Clean concrete the day before & allow concrete to dry for 24 hours.
 2. Apply stain in the morning, apply lighter color first (two applications), then add a darker color if you want a darker tone.

 **Before you start staining wear rubber gloves & safety glasses** 

When staining, cover the surrounding areas thoroughly with drop cloths or clear plastic sheetings. Including plants and furniture. In result, nothing will be accidentally stained. Stains can be difficult/ almost impossible, to remove. The finished products appearance is heavily influenced by the manner in which the stain is applied. For best results, spray is using a plastic 1 gal. pump sprayer and a push broom. It is recommended to use an all plastic pump sprayer (no metal products) and push broom. Then, brush in even, circular strokes.

How to mix the color?

Take the gallon of stain and pour 3/4 into the sprayer, close the gallon and mix the remainder very well. Look inside to make sure there is no pigment sitting at the bottom of gallon, then pour the remainder into the sprayer. Mix together in the sprayer for about 10 seconds. Do a small first area for a color test.

Now you're ready for Staining

Take into consideration weather conditions before applying. Apply stain at 60-85 concrete degrees (any temperature above 85 degrees, mist concrete surface with clean water first).

1. First coat apply color lightly
2. Second coat spray & brush

- The more applications you do, the darker your color will turn out.

To eliminate any brush strokes, mist water very lightly over the brush strokes (unless the strokes are desired in the finish).

When stain is dried, you may spray a darker color on top for a darker finish.

For a more diffused look, you may spray the stain onto the surface *without* brushing.

Every slab of concrete is different, and staining is an artistic process. It is important to do small test patches on the surface in corners of where furniture or trash cans will be, to sample the look you like the best.

Water base stain cannot be cut with water thus making color lighter in shade and will not bond to the surfaces. The best option is to test patch the concrete using full straight cement content and weathering. This is another reason to do as many pre-stain tests as the job site will allow. As the stain dries and processes. Different stains need different times to activate and fully color the concrete, generally from 15 minutes to 1 hour. Be sure and check your stains activation time before starting the job to insure full coloring of the surface. If you are going for the most color from a giving stain, spray another coat of stain over the dried surfaces.

Do not walk on the wet surfaces, the stain is active and can retain impressions of your feet or tools.

Sealing the Surface with Classic Sealer

After the stain has completely dried, the surface must be sealed twice with a proper **Classic decorative sealer**.

The sealer can be rolled on, but preferably sprayed & brushed for most non-textured applications.

High gloss & Matte finish sealers are very slippery. It's highly recommended to add **Classics Gator Grip CGG** (12oz per 5 gallons). Never use a natural penetration sealer on a water base stain.

To spray sealer on, use an all season deck sealant pump sprayer. These usually come with three different nozzles. Use a medium sized nozzle and thoroughly coat the surface.

Classic Sealers dry very fast, smooth and flat to the surface; so the most important aspect is complete coverage. A thick coating of sealer can sometimes take 72 hours to cure depending on humidity, etc.

To brush the sealer on, use a good quality brush so the bristles don't fall loose on the surface as you apply. This is recommended for very rough surfaces or touch up work. In a sprayed or rolled surface you can come across areas of a floor that are more porous and absorb sealer, causing an uneven finish.

Rolling is a popular method for applying the sealer. Be sure to use a very short napped roller with no texture, as the texture of the roller can impress into the sealer. It is much harder to get an even, thick coating of sealer with a roller and is the method most likely to have unpredictable finish results. If applied carefully, this is easiest of the methods.

(For interior only). To maintain the gloss of the surface, use **Image floor seal CW800**. apply with a micro, especially surfaces with high stress from pets or children, etc. These products are water based and even out the finish after a fresh seal or revitalize the look of a scratched surface. They can also be buffed using a shy blue pad for a deeper glow.

This, is the best look for a high gloss finished floor, and the look you see most often in commercial applications.

Thank you for choosing Classic Coatings Systems and enjoy your new concrete!