

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 a basic and effective way to complete most applications.

Surface Preparation:

Use a Hudson sprayer to clean surface with **Classic Super Eco-etch (CW305)**. Coverage should be 100%. 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. 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 or existing water base stain, remove with **Classic Stripper CS1000**. Apply the stripper using a roller, coverage should be 100%. Powerwash after 5 minutes. Never clean concrete with muriatic acid.

Concrete surfaces inside homes with drywall, mastic, mud, paint, wood stains, tile adhesives, carpet adhesives, grease and pet stains will certainly show through and block the staining process.

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

How to clean different types of concrete surfaces:

- **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.



Always wear rubber gloves, safety mask and goggles



Cover surrounding plants, furniture and other areas with drop cloths or clear plastic sheetings to avoid accidental stains. The final appearance is heavily influenced by the manner in which the stain is applied. For best results, spray with a 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 color:

Pour 3/4 of the gallon of stain into the sprayer. Close the gallon and mix the remaining very well. Look inside to make sure there is no pigment sitting at the bottom of the gallon, now pour the remaining product into the sprayer. Mix together in the sprayer for about 10 seconds. Do a small test area.

You are now ready for staining.

The Staining Process:

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 covering.

- Consider weather conditions before applying. Apply stain at 60-85 concrete degrees. (If temperature is above 85 degrees, mist concrete surface with clean water first)
 1. First coat apply color lightly
 2. Second coat spray & brush
- Do not walk on the wet surfaces, the stain is active and can retain impressions of your feet or tools.

Helpful tips:

- To eliminate any unwanted brush strokes, immediately mist water over them very lightly.
 - For a more diffused look, spray the stain onto the surface without brushing.
 - The more applications, the darker your color will turn out.
 - When stain is dried, you may spray a darker color on top for a darker finish.

Diluting water base stains will not yield lighter shades and will cause stain to not bond with surface properly. For best results, patch test concrete using full cement content and weathering.

As each stain dries and processes differently, it is best to do as many pre-stain tests as allowed. Different stains need different times to activate and fully penetrate concrete (varying from 15 minutes to 1 hour).

Sealing the Surface with Classic Sealer

Once stain has completely dried, the surface must be sealed twice with a proper **Classic Decorative Sealer**.

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

High gloss & matte finish sealers are very slippery, so it is highly recommended to add **Classics Gator Grip CGG** (12oz per 5 gallons). Never use a natural penetration sealer on a water base stain.

Application Methods

To *brush* sealer on, use a good quality brush to avoid bristle fall-out (recommended especially for very rough surfaces or touch up work).

To *spray* sealer on, use an all season deck sealant pump sprayer with a medium sized nozzle and thoroughly coat the surface.

Sealer can be *rolled* on, but it is recommended to be sprayed & brushed on for most nontextured applications. 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 and thick coating of sealer with a roller and it is most likely to have unpredictable finish results with this method. If applied carefully, this is easiest of the methods.

On a *sprayed* or *rolled* surface, you can come across areas that are more porous and absorptive of sealer, causing an uneven finish.

(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, 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.