

KEMIKO CONCRETE STAINS & TOPCOATS

APPLICATION INFORMATION

A PATH GUIDE, AT THE END OF THIS INSTRUCTIONAL, WILL HELP IN THE SELECTION OF BOTH PRODUCT AND PROCESS.

GENERAL INFORMATION

CAUTION: KEMIKO STAIN CONTAINS ACID. Use safety goggles, rubber gloves and rubber apron. Whenever exposure to vapor/mist is likely, wear properly fitted NIOSH/MSHA approved respirator, unless levels are below applicable limits.

*****It is always recommended that a small out of the way section of your project be tested to see if the desired reaction occurs. If it does not, you may have surface contaminants on your slab.***

A new concrete slab should cure for four to six (4-6) weeks. The optimum time to stain in a new home is after all construction (taping, bedding, texturing and painting) is completed and just prior to the baseboards being affixed. We recommend that you protect your new slab during the construction phase with plastic, paper, cardboard, plywood or sheet rock covering as the initial cleaning step will be much easier, but you must make sure that your protection choice does not impede the proper curing of the concrete. **All laborers should be advised that the slab will be the finished floor.**

If scoring is desired, giving the impression of stone or tiles, we suggest that it be done within three to four days after the slab is poured, and that the scoring groove be no deeper than 1/16 - 1/8 of an inch. Deeper grooves will collect dirt. **Kemiko products should be used in a well-ventilated area.**

STEP ONE - WASH DO NOT ACID ETCH OR ACID WASH BEFORE APPLYING KEMIKO STAIN

Wash the concrete surface, as it must be clean and free of paints, wax, grease, dirt and other surface contaminants. **Do not acid wash or use heavy alkali cleaners.** Kemiko Neutra-Clean is an excellent mild all purpose cleaner and when mixed with water, can be used to clean the slab by scrubbing with a slow-speed floor machine and long handled stiff bristle brushes, then wet vacuumed (preferred) or mopped (more than one mopping may be necessary) to remove all dirt. After washing, allow the floor to dry completely.

Protect all walls with tape and paper. Do not allow the stain to touch any metal or wood, as it is corrosive. Do not apply tape directly to the concrete, *at any time.*

STEP TWO – STAIN (first application)

NOTE: Before applying this product verify that the color indicated on the container is the color ordered from Kemiko. Kemiko expressly disclaims any damages that result from the application of an inappropriate color of stain.

Generally, you will mix equal parts stain with equal parts water (50% - 50%). Adding more or less water will lighten or darken the stain, respectively. We suggest you use an all-plastic garden type (insecticide) pump-up sprayer (no metal parts) as you can control volume much easier and remember ‘VOLUME EQUALS DEPTH OF COLOR’.

Make sure all container lids are tight and shake vigorously before using. Put the water in the spray container, then add desired amount of stain. Close the lid, pump up the pressure and begin randomly spraying the mixture on the floor by holding the nozzle of the wand approximately 18 inches from the floor. The finer the spray, the more natural the look.

Try to avoid precise back and forth motions, circular or figure eight motions are usually preferred. You should apply the mixture leaving ‘full moisture, short of puddles’. Try not to leave puddles, as puddle edges hold more moisture (volume equals depth of color). If puddles do occur, do not take corrective action while wet, but try to conceal or camouflage the area with the next application. As you apply the stain, there may be varying degrees of fizzing and *there may not be a lot of color*. Let the floor dry completely.

Drying time will depend on porosity, temperature, humidity and volume, but it generally takes several hours. Do not walk on the floor while it is wet or damp. Do not remove the residue that is left from the chemical reaction of the first application.

Using the same procedure as explained above, **apply the second application**. Again allow the floor to dry completely.

You will notice darker tones of color appearing at this time. After a few hours you may check for color by taking a damp cloth and rubbing it over an area, making sure to get under the powdery residue.

STEP THREE - WASH

After the floor has completely dried, scrub off the residue using a slow speed floor machine with a scrub brush attachment, Neutra-Clean and/or water only, or a long handled medium stiff bristle brush and remove the water/residue mixture from the floor with a wet vacuum (preferred), mop and squeegee. This may take more than one cleaning, as all the residue needs to be removed.

TEST: If color is left on a white towel after wiping the floor, clean again. Allow the floor to dry completely, keep in mind the surface may look dry but may still be holding moisture. Any residue or moisture trapped between the concrete and the floor finish that is applied can create adhesion and appearance flaws.

Choose the ‘Step Four’ that is in your ‘Path to a beautiful concrete floor’.

CAUTION: NEVER PUT SEALER ON WAX.

STEP FOUR – STONE TONE WAX - INTERIOR

Kemiko Buff-On Wax is best applied with a heavy floor machine (slow speed {175 rpm}) and three attachments, a stiff natural bristle brush (Bassine <most critical>) – to apply, a medium bristle brush (Palmyra or Union Mix) - to buff, and a soft buffing pad/brush (Tampico) - to polish.

To begin, spread a smooth light coating of wax out from the walls (2-3 inches) and in the corners out to the radius of the floor machine attachment. Put on no more than 1/4 cup of wax on the floor in the center of the first 4 to 5 foot square. Immediately work the wax by spreading with the machine and burning it in using the natural stiff bristle attachment (this may take 4-5 minutes), it will appear wet and dull. Move to the next 3-4 foot quadrant and repeat the step only after the wax in the preceding area has turned to a slight glare and the wax ridges have disappeared. Mineral spirits on a cloth, will soften any ridges or excess wax, allowing it to be spread and worked in.

When you have completed this application phase, change to the medium bristle brush attachment and buff the entire floor. Corners and edges, where a machine cannot get, may be buffed with a hand brush or soft cloth. After buffing, if greater protection is desired, repeat the first phase applying a thin second coat. Then rebuff. If a slightly higher sheen is desired, buff with a soft buffing pad or white Tampico brush.

STEP FOUR – STONE TONE SEALER II – INTERIOR OR EXTERIOR

When using sealer, the surface to be coated should be completely dry so as not to trap any moisture, as this may cause clouding. *When using sealer allow extra drying time.*

You must allow the concrete slab to dry completely before applying Stone Tone Sealer II. It is generally best applied with an airless sprayer or a professional pump-up sprayer. Rollers and pad applicators may be used; however, it is more difficult to control volume. Two coats of sealer will almost always be necessary and additional coats may be required on porous surfaces. Remember, two thin coats are better than one thick coat. Stone Tone Sealer II should dry 1 hour before re-coat, 4 hours before foot traffic, 24 hours before heavy traffic and 48-72 hours for full cure.

STEP FOUR – STA-NATURAL SEALER – EXTERIOR

When using sealer, the surface to be coated should be completely dry so as not to trap any moisture, as this may cause clouding. *When using sealer allow extra drying time.*

The substrate should be dry and clean of any contaminants. Sta-Natural is best applied by spraying but can be rolled or brushed. Remember, two thin coats are better than one thick coat. Drying time is 1 hour for recoating, 4 hours for foot traffic, 24 hours for heavy traffic and 48 hours to full cure. Do not apply if rain is forecast within 24 hours of application.

STEP FIVE – FINISH COAT – EASY SHINE WAX – INTERIOR

It is always in the customer's best interest to apply several coats of Kemiko's Easy Shine Mop-On Wax to all interior projects coated with Kemiko Stone Tone Sealer II or Sta-Crete Epoxy Coating as it will dramatically minimize scratching of the sealed coat. Ensure previous coating (i.e. sealer or epoxy coating) is completely cured, prior to application of

Easy Shine Wax. Easy Shine is best applied by spraying, then massaging it onto the floor with a micro-fiber pad in a figure eight, back and forth motion. Drying time is 20-30 minutes. It is not to be applied over Kemiko Buff-On Wax.

MAINTENANCE

All floors require maintenance on a regular basis. Kemiko waxed and/or sealed floors are easy to care for. It is best to clean finished concrete floors with a damp mop and water only and/or a very mild detergent, if necessary. Heavy cleaners such as ammonia or bleach products should not be used.

Care should be taken to apply felt pads to all pieces of moveable furniture, and always lift furniture when moving, instead of dragging. It is far easier to maintain and re-wax stained concrete floors than to re-apply sealer.

THE PATH TO BEAUTIFUL DECORATIVE CONCRETE – Product Selection Guide

Kemiko suggests you view your project and the use of Kemiko products as a “The Path to Beautiful Decorative Concrete”. Please consider the following options, THEN CHOOSE A PATH. (The Path choice is usually based on use of surface and desired appearance.)

Keep in mind the path, or process, will be the same for any project from step one through step three. It is at step four where you must make a decision as to which product to use on the surface.

Kemiko Rocky Mountain, dba The Ader Image is available to help guide you through this process at 303-286-8111.

Project	Appearance Paths	Step One Floor Preparation	Step Two Stain	Step Three Residue Removal	Step Four Protection Coat	Step Five Finish (Interior)
Interior	Path One Rich Luster	Neutra-Clean	Kemiko Stain	Neutra-Clean	Buff-on Wax	
Interior	Path Two Gloss	Neutra-Clean	Kemiko Stain	Neutra-Clean	Stone Tone Sealer II	Easy Shine Wax
Interior	Path Three Matte	Neutra-Clean	Kemiko Stain	Neutra-Clean	Stone Tone Sealer II	Easy Shine Wax
Interior Commercial	Path Four Gloss	Neutra-Clean	Kemiko Stain	Neutra-Clean	Sta-Crete Epoxy	Easy Shine Wax
Exterior	Path Five Natural Finish	Neutra-Clean	Kemiko Stain	Neutra-Clean	Sta-Natural Sealer	
Exterior	Path Six Gloss or Matte	Neutra-Clean	Kemiko Stain	Neutra-Clean	Stone Tone Sealer II	
Exterior Commercial	Path Seven Gloss	Neutra-Clean	Kemiko Stain	Neutra-Clean	Sta-Crete Polyurethane	

Retail and Commercial Projects

Contact your Kemiko Dealer for a full line of Kemiko Products and Sta-Crete Sealers and Epoxies.

NOTE: Should you have questions regarding the application of Kemiko products, we encourage you to call and discuss them with us. If you are interested in having your project done professionally, please go to our website www.kemiko-rockymtn.com under Installers or contact us for an installer directory.