

CLEAR CONCRETE SEALER PREPARATION GUIDE

Surface Porosity

- Ensure the concrete has sufficient porosity for the sealer to penetrate.
- Dip a finger into a glass of water and apply 2-3 drops to the surface.
- Time the amount of time it takes for the water to soak into the concrete.
- For sufficient porosity to apply a sealer, this should be no longer than 90 seconds.
- Repeat the test over multiple sections of the concrete substrate.
- If under 90 seconds then the concrete has sufficient porosity for application of the sealer.
- If longer than 90 seconds, then it may be necessary to either acid wash or diamond grind the concrete to open it up and create the required porosity.

Moisture

- The substrate must be dry and free from any rising moisture.
- Ideally use a concrete moisture meter to determine the moisture content. If this is not available, proceed using the method below.
- To test for moisture, cut a piece of thick black plastic into 1m².
- Ensure that it is free from any tears or pinholes (this would render the test useless).
- Attach the plastic to a section of the substrate (repeat in other areas) & duct tape the edges.
- It is important that the plastic is completely sealed around all edges and free from holes.
- After 24 hours, remove the plastic. If the concrete has darkened or there is condensation under the plastic, then the concrete is not sufficiently dry to apply a sealer or coating.
- If the substrate is not dry enough then either wait a few more days & repeat the test or it may be necessary to use a concrete moisture barrier. Contact Right Choice for advice.

Contamination

- All substrates must be clean and free of contamination i.e. oil, grease, bird droppings etc.
- Many of these contaminants are easily removed using the Right Choice Concrete Cleaner.
- In some cases it may be necessary to use a concrete grinder or a light acid wash.
- Basically, if water does not penetrate through the contamination then neither will a sealer or a coating.

Acid Etching

- If required, the concrete can be lightly acid etched prior to sealing. This will help to remove any contamination and create a more porous surface.
- Use extreme caution and safe handling methods when using hydrochloric acid.
- Dilute the hydrochloric acid with water at a rate of 10% (1 part acid to 10 parts water).
- Apply the diluted solution evenly to the surface using a watering can.
- Allow the acid to bubble on the concrete for up to 15 mins.
- Once the bubbling has ceased, thoroughly hose the surface off (abide by local laws for disposal).
- Neutralise the surface using the Right Choice Concrete Cleaner (highly alkaline). Allow the surface to dry for a minimum of 24 hours.