

Guidelines

Tips On How To Avoid Winter Sealing Problems

Simple steps to prevent efflorescence, whitening and adhesion problems in cold weather;

- Ensure a good quality concrete surface – consider using High Early Strength Cement, a richer concrete mix and/or an accelerator if very cold weather and rain is likely – always protect against rain and frost damage and do not finish the concrete while bleed of rain water is on the surface.
- Achieve a faster set time and reduce bleed water in very cold weather by using a minimum 25 MPa concrete.
- Prevent scaling and surface delamination by waiting for bleed water to disappear before applying colour hardener and finishing.
- When sealing 'Stencil Concrete', the first coat of sealer can be diluted 10% with Nutech Thinners and spray applied on the day the concrete is poured, even in winter, provided it's not raining. The second undiluted coat of sealer can be applied the next day – only use Nutech High Gloss for the second coat.
- When sealing 'Slate Impression', the concrete must be acid etched (1 part of Hydrochloric Acid to 15 parts water) and high pressure water washed (minimum 1500 PSI) to remove the release agent before sealing. The first coat should be diluted 1:1 with Nutech Thinners and broom applied when the concrete is completely dry. The second undiluted coat of sealer can be applied when the first coat is dry – only use Nutech High Gloss for the second coat.
- When applying clear or coloured sealer on all other types of old and new concrete in winter, wait a minimum of 5 days or until the concrete surface changes from dark to grey, which indicates surface curing. To guarantee sealer adhesion acid etch the concrete (1 part acid to 20 parts water) and high pressure water wash to remove all salts, concrete powder, dirt and contamination. Use Nutech Floor Clear to remove oil and grease stains before coating. The first coat of sealer should be diluted with 20% Nutech Thinners. The second undiluted coat of sealer can be applied when the first coat is dry.
- Avoid sealing early in the day when the concrete is moist. Do not seal late in the day when rain or dew can affect the surface.
- It is advisable to add Nutech Anti-Slip Additive in the second coat of sealer to help pedestrian and vehicle safety, particularly in wet conditions on smooth concrete surfaces.