

EVERSTAIN™ ACID STAIN

TECHNICAL DATA SHEET



DESCRIPTION

EverStain™ Acid Stain is known for its unique ability to create a rich, variegated finish on concrete surfaces. Unlike traditional paints or coatings that simply cover the surface, this acid stain deeply infuses color into the concrete, showcasing its natural character. The translucent effects and broad color variations give surfaces a timeworn, aged look, making it an excellent choice for projects that require an authentic and long-lasting finish.

PRODUCT BENEFITS

- **Exceptional Penetration and Durability:** EverStain™ Acid Stain is a water-based solution infused with metallic salts and a slightly acidic nature. When applied to cured concrete free from sealers, paints, and resins, it reacts with the free lime within the concrete. This unique process allows the stain to penetrate deeply, forming permanent precipitates that become an integral part of the concrete.
- **Enhances Natural Finish:** Unlike conventional surface coverings, EverStain™ Acid Stain doesn't hide the concrete's character but works harmoniously with it. The result is a variegated finish and beautiful patina, reminiscent of the "old world" surface effects seen in materials like bronze or naturally oxidized copper. The broad drifts of color and mottled surface effects are not flaws but rather distinctive architectural features of this concrete coloring method.
- **Versatile Color Selection:** EverStain™ features ten standard colors, offering a spectrum of rich, marbled hues that transform plain, gray concrete into a unique and visually appealing surface.
- **Suitable for Various Applications:** EverStain™'s versatility is suitability for a range of applications, from interior floors to outdoor patios.

- **Color Enhancement Options:** EverStain™ Acid Stain can be applied over PatchRx™ concrete repair and Resurface-It™ concrete overlay colors to further enhance the tone of colored concrete. White-based surfaces can be utilized to achieve enhanced and richer effects.
- **Artistic Possibilities:** EverStain™ Acid Stain opens up a world of artistic and graphic possibilities. Experienced contractors or artisans can create unique and visually stunning installations using this product along with other decorative concrete products.
- **Compatibility with Various Materials:** These stains are not limited to concrete; they can also be used on other cementitious materials such as terrazzo, gunite, shotcrete, stucco, cement plaster, and certain self-leveling toppings. Additionally, they are suitable for lime-based natural stone with chemistry similar to concrete, such as limestone.

PRE-APPLICATION

- **Clean:** EverStain™ should be applied only on clean surfaces devoid of dust, dirt, oil, grease, paint, adhesive, sealers, curing compounds, efflorescence, chemical pollutants, rust, algae, and mildew, which could interfere with the chemical reaction. Before application, test all concrete for moisture; do not proceed if moisture emissions exceed 5 lbs/1000 sq ft (ASTM F1869) or if relative humidity is above 75% (ASTM F2170). Acid washing is discouraged as it may alter the surface's reactivity. Clean the surface with an eco-friendly degreaser and ensure thorough rinsing with clean water to remove any residues.
- **Sound:** Apply only to cement-based products that are not flaking or spalling. The substrate must be structurally sound. For surfaces showing signs of delamination, employ diamond grinding, shot blasting, or similar mechanical methods for removal. For concrete, ensure the surface has a minimum strength of 2500 psi.

- **Cured:** The concrete or overlay must be fully cured prior to application. For optimal results, it is advised that cement-based products undergo a curing period of at least 28 days. In instances where a curing compound is necessary for freshly placed concrete destined for staining, the use of an impregnating internal cure is recommended. Distinct from traditional curing agents, internal curing compounds do not create a film or membrane on the surface. Primarily formulated for uncolored concrete, these internal cures do not disrupt the chemical staining reaction, unlike typical sodium silicate-based products. This eliminates the need for membrane removal during the preparatory phase, facilitating a smoother application process.
- **Profiled:** Conduct an absorption test to determine if the concrete is ready for staining. Pour water onto the surface and wait 3-5 minutes. If the water is not absorbed, clean and etch the surface using CitrusEtch™ concrete Etcher to open the pores of the concrete surface. Refer to the CitrusEtch™ Technical Data Sheet for detailed instructions.
- **Temperature:** Apply when temperatures are between 40°F (4°C) and 95°F (35°C) for optimal results.

PREPARATION

- **Personal Safety:** Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment as recommended in the Safety Data Sheet.
- **Area Preparation:** Protect surfaces not intended for staining by covering surrounding areas to prevent accidental application.
- Avoid using tape on concrete surfaces before or after staining, as adhesives and plasticizers can interfere with the stain's effectiveness.

A sample test area is strongly recommended. Prepare sample test areas on the same type of concrete where the stain will be applied to ensure the color and finish meet project specifications.

TOOLS FOR APPLICATION

- **For Large Applications:** Use a garden-type pump sprayer with both the spray tip and sprayer made of plastic.
- **For Small Projects:** Utilize a brush, small foam applicator, or spray bottle and plastic tub or dishpan, ensuring it's large enough for easy brush dipping.

TOOLS FOR RESIDUE REMOVAL

- **Large/Exterior:** Use a hose and long-handled deck brush, complemented by a wet vacuum for residue removal. When employing a pressure cleaner, exercise caution with high PSI settings as they may chip the concrete surface. Opt for a green or white nozzle and maintain a distance of 15 to 18 inches from the surface.
- **Small/Interior:** Use a medium nylon brush and a wet vacuum with squeegee attachment.

APPLICATION

Please Note: The color of the stain in the bottle will not reflect the final color after reacting with the concrete.

FOR LARGE PROJECTS:

- Using the all-plastic pump sprayer, liberally and continuously apply the stain in a circular motion over the surface. Avoid uniform patterns by spraying in random circles, which helps prevent visual lines in the stain.
- Consistently maintain a wet edge if you desire a more uniform application.
- Avoid excessive puddling by controlling the application rate, aiming for 200-400 sq ft per gallon.
- Monitor for acidic reactions such as fizzing and foaming, which indicate the stain is reacting as expected. Some stain colors may not show immediate reactions; this is normal.
- Gradually extend the application to the outer edges during the reaction phase.
- After the reaction has stopped, use fresh material for any areas that have not been colored, blending into previously completed sections to avoid lap marks.

- Allow the stain to sit for a minimum of 5 hours to ensure adequate reaction time before any rinsing.
- Test for depth of color by wetting the surface in several places with a cloth dampened with water.
- The wet surface's appearance will closely resemble the final color if sealed with a high-gloss solvent-based sealer. Choosing a water-based sealer or a solvent-based sealer with a satin finish will result in a less intense color. The depth of color decreases in the following order: solvent-based gloss > solvent-based satin > water-based gloss > water-based satin.
- For a deeper color, apply additional coats after the first has fully reacted, ensuring a minimum wait time of five hours between applications.
- The final coat should dry for at least 5 hours, with dense or burnished surfaces requiring a minimum of 18 hours dry time.

FOR SMALL PROJECTS

- Utilize an all-plastic brush, small foam applicator, or spray bottle for detailed work on small areas and stencil designs. These tools offer precision for intricate patterns and controlled stain application.
- Saturate the selected tool with stain, applying it in random, overlapping strokes or with controlled spraying to achieve uniform coverage and avoid undesired patterning.
- After application, allow the stain to dwell on the surface for at least 5 hours before proceeding with stencil removal, rinsing, or cleaning. This dwell time is essential for the chemical reaction to fully develop.
- Test for uniformity and depth of color by wetting the surface with a cloth dampened with water.
- For enhanced color depth within stencil designs or on treated surfaces, apply additional coats once the initial reaction has concluded. Maintain a minimum interval of five hours between each application to ensure proper reaction and absorption.

THINNING

For experienced professionals, EverStain™ Acid Stain may be thinned with up to 5 parts water for concrete applications. Note that thinning affects the depth of color.

COVERAGE

Estimated coverage is approximately 200 square feet (18.58 m²) per gallon. Actual coverage rates may differ based on factors such as surface porosity, texture, the age and condition of the concrete, chosen application method, and prevailing environmental conditions.

CLEAN UP

- After drying, EverStain™ Acid Stain leaves a powdery residue. Remove this by neutralizing the surface with a commercial pH neutralizer like ProClean Neutralizer™, ammonia, or baking soda, followed by thorough water flushing and stiff brush scrubbing. Keep in mind, using ammonia will result in strong fumes, and baking soda requires additional cleanup time to remove extra residue.
- Rinse the surface with clean water to remove all neutralizer and residue. If you opt not to use our ProClean Neutralizer™ and choose ammonia or baking soda instead, be mindful that the rinse water could be slightly corrosive and capable of staining. This requires extra caution to protect unstained areas, those with different colors, and plant-life zones.
- Ensure complete removal of salty colored residue and achieve proper surface neutralization and cleanup.
- When using ammonia or baking soda as your neutralizer, apply an alkaline solution (1 cup of commercial cleaner/degreaser per 1 gallon of water) to aid in cleaning. Agitate with stiff bristle nylon brushes, or for larger areas, use a rotary floor machine with a soft pad, proceeding with caution.
- Utilize a wet/dry vacuum to collect colored wastewater.
- Final rinsing should continue until the runoff is clear. A white rag test, coming away clean, indicates a properly cleaned surface.
- Collect and properly dispose of all residue water and rinse water, adhering to environmental regulations.

SEALING

- Acid stained concrete must be sealed to preserve the color and finish.

SEALING

- Ensure the surface is clean and dry prior to sealing. Fans and blowers can be used to speed up the drying process.
- Sealing stained surfaces enhances their brilliance and depth of color.
- Epoxy and solvent-based sealers will produce a deep and brilliant look, whereas water-based sealers tend to give a more toned-down appearance.

SURFACE PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE

- Periodically inspect the sealed surface for areas where the sealer may be thinning or showing signs of wear due to traffic. Reapply the sealer as needed, following the guidance provided in the appropriate Technical Data Sheet.
- If traces of efflorescence are present, they should be removed using a gentle cleaner before resealing or applying any maintenance products.
- For interior surfaces, the application of ProWax Polish™ is recommended as a sacrificial layer on top of the existing seal coat to enhance protection and appearance. Ensure you obtain and review the appropriate Technical Data Sheet and Safety Data Sheet prior to using this product.

SUITABILITY SAMPLE

Prior to application, prepare a sufficient number of test areas on the actual substrate to determine the aesthetic suitability of the product for its intended use.

LIMITATIONS & PRECAUTIONS

- Inconsistencies in job site conditions, base color, concrete mix design and slump, curing methods, finishing practices, stain application, surface permeability, and the age and condition of concrete may lead to variations in the finished product's color.
- Acid stain will not conceal imperfections or existing stains in the concrete; it will reveal a mottled appearance, with colors and effects varying based on the concrete's texture and composition.

- Older concrete surfaces may not accept the stain as readily as newer surfaces, affecting the uniformity and intensity of the color.
- The EverStain™ Color Chart shows standard colors applied to uncolored gray concrete. However, each concrete substrate is unique, and acid stains may produce different effects than those shown on the color chart. The use and final appearance of acid stains can be uncertain and unpredictable.
- While product literature, photos, and sample color chips aim to accurately represent colors, the actual colors achieved on concrete may significantly differ.
- Black and Coffee Brown are high-solids acid stains best applied in very thin layers. For these colors, two thin applications are recommended, with the longest possible drying times between coats. The optimal dry time after each coat is 18 hours, with a minimum of 4 hours.
- Avocado, Azure Blue, and Seagrass stains are sensitive to moisture and can produce a black, spotty effect. These colors are not recommended for use on slag concrete or in areas prone to excessive water exposure or slag concrete influences. Ideally suited for interior applications, these stains require a well-drained sub-grade, free from hydrostatic pressure. Additionally, UV exposure may darken these colors over time, reinforcing the recommendation for interior use only. To ensure proper application, a minimum drying time of 24 hours is necessary to allow any rinse moisture to fully evaporate before sealing. Adhering strictly to the application instructions is essential for achieving the desired outcome with these specific stains.
- Hard-troweled concrete surfaces may present difficulties in staining. It's particularly important to allow extra drying time between application coats on hard-troweled surfaces.
- Over time, acid stain colors may fade, especially with prolonged exposure to sunlight. This fading can be minimized or prevented with proper maintenance and care of the stained surface.
- Prevent contact with metal objects, particularly galvanized ones, as this can lead to the production of explosive hydrogen gas during the acid staining process.

SLIP RESISTANCE

EverStain™ does not alter slip resistance. Slip resistance is determined by the chosen sealer. For enhanced slip-resistance on exterior surfaces, integrate OxiGrip™ into the sealer. Ensure you obtain and review the appropriate Technical Data Sheet and Safety Data Sheet prior to using this product.

DISPOSAL

For the disposal of any unused product, please refer to your local environmental or hazardous waste management authority to ensure compliance with local regulations.

SHELF LIFE AND STORAGE

This product should be used within one year of purchase for optimal effectiveness. For storage, keep the product indoors, in a cool area away from direct sunlight and heat sources.

HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES

Scan the QR code below to access the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for detailed health and safety information on each EverStain™ Acid Stain color.



WARRANTY

EverStain™, a proprietary product, is guaranteed to maintain uniform quality within the bounds of manufacturing tolerances. However, as we have no control over its application, no explicit or implied warranty is provided concerning the effects of such use. In the event of a proven defect, our liability is strictly limited to refunding the purchase price of the defective material. The user is responsible for all other risks and liabilities that may arise from the use of this product. For any inquiries, please reach out to Direct Colors customer service.

AVAILABLE SIZES & PACKAGING

4-Ounce (0.118 L) Bottle 5-Gallon (18.925 L) Carboy
1-Quart (0.946 L) Bottle 55-Gallon (208 L) Drum
1-Gallon (3.785 L) Jug

APPLICABLE STANDARDS

Meets EQ Credit 4.2 for Low-Emitting Materials: Paints & Coatings, when applied in conjunction with a low VOC sealer.

COMPLEMENTARY PRODUCTS

- ProClean Degreaser™ Concentrate Cleaning agent.
- CitrusEtch™ - Concrete etching agent.
- ProClean Neutralizer™ Concentrate.
- EasySeal™ Acrylic Solvent-Based Tinted Sealer
- AcquaSeal™ Acrylic Water-Based Tinted Sealer
- OxiGrip™ Slip resistant Sealer additive
- ProWax Polish™ Premium Floor Wax & Polish

COLOR SELECTION

EverStain™ is available in 10 colors. For the full range of options, scan the QR code below to view our color chart.



TECHNICAL SERVICE & SUPPORT

Direct Colors offers comprehensive technical assistance and consulting services. Our expertise includes product selection guidance, specification details, troubleshooting support, and advice on the effective repair and protection of concrete surfaces. We are committed to providing tailored solutions to meet your specific project needs.

TECHNICAL DATA

Physical State	Liquid
Color	Various colors
Odor	Acidic
Solubility in Water	N/A
VOC	0 (Zero)

SAFETY DATA SHEET

Scan the QR code below for the complete Safety Data Sheet for each EverStain™ Acid Stain color.



MANUFACTURERS SKU & UPC

Avocado	DC-CAS-AVO-1GAL-W	UPC 810141962675
Azure Blue	DC-CAS-AZB-1GAL-W	UPC 810141962712
Black	DC-CAS-BLK-1GAL-W	UPC 810141962750
Coffee Brown	DC-CAS-COB-1GAL-W	UPC 810141962798
Cola	DC-CAS-COL-1GAL-W	UPC 810141962835
Desert Amber	DC-CAS-DAM-1GAL-W	UPC 810141962873
English Red	DC-CAS-ENR-1GAL-W	UPC 810141962910
Malayan Buff	DC-CAS-MAB-1GAL-W	UPC 810141962958
Seagrass	DC-CAS-SEG-1GAL-W	UPC 810141962996
Shifting Sand	DC-CAS-SHS-1GAL-W	UPC 810141963030

Avocado	DC-CAS-AVO-1QT	UPC 810141962651
Azure Blue	DC-CAS-AZB-1QT	UPC 810141962699
Black	DC-CAS-BLK-1QT	UPC 810141962736
Coffee Brown	DC-CAS-COB-1QT	UPC 810141962774
Cola	DC-CAS-COL-1QT	UPC 810141962811
Desert Amber	DC-CAS-DAM-1QT	UPC 810141962859
English Red	DC-CAS-ENR-1QT	UPC 810141962897
Malayan Buff	DC-CAS-MAB-1QT	UPC 810141962934
Seagrass	DC-CAS-SEG-1QT	UPC 810141962972
Shifting Sand	DC-CAS-SHS-1QT	UPC 810141963016

MANUFACTURERS SKU & UPC

Avocado	DC-CAS-AVO-5GAL	UPC 810141962675
Azure Blue	DC-CAS-AZB-5GAL	UPC 810141962712
Black	DC-CAS-BLK-5GAL	UPC 810141962750
Coffee Brown	DC-CAS-COB-5GAL	UPC 810141962798
Cola	DC-CAS-COL-5GAL	UPC 810141962835
Desert Amber	DC-CAS-DAM-5GAL	UPC 810141962873
English Red	DC-CAS-ENR-5GAL	UPC 810141962910
Malayan Buff	DC-CAS-MAB-5GAL	UPC 810141962958
Seagrass	DC-CAS-SEG-5GAL	UPC 810141962996
Shifting Sand	DC-CAS-SHS-5GAL	UPC 810141963030

Avocado	DC-CAS-AVO-4OZ	UPC 810141962668
Azure Blue	DC-CAS-AZB-4OZ	UPC 810141962705
Black	DC-CAS-BLK-4OZ	UPC 810141962743
Coffee Brown	DC-CAS-COB-4OZ	UPC 810141962781
Cola	DC-CAS-COL-4OZ	UPC 810141962828
Desert Amber	DC-CAS-DAM-4OZ	UPC 810141962866
English Red	DC-CAS-ENR-4OZ	UPC 810141962903
Malayan Buff	DC-CAS-MAB-4OZ	UPC 810141962941
Seagrass	DC-CAS-SEG-4OZ	UPC 810141962989
Shifting Sand	DC-CAS-SHS-4OZ	UPC 810141963023