

ACQUATINT™

HOW-TO GUIDE



PRELIMINARY TESTING

Before using the product for your entire project, try it out on a small, hidden area of the surface you'll be working on. This will let you see how it looks and if it's the right fit for your project.

PRE-APPLICATION

- **Clean:** The surface must be entirely free from dust, dirt, oil, grease, paints, glues, non-water-based acrylic sealers, curing agents, efflorescence, chemical contaminants, rust, algae, mildew, and other materials that could prevent proper bonding.
- **Cured:** Ensure the concrete or overlay is fully cured before application. It's recommended that cement-based products cure for at least 28 days for optimal results.
- **Sound:** Only apply to cement-based products that are not flaking or spalling. The substrate must be structurally sound. For surfaces showing signs of delamination, use diamond grinding, shot blasting, or similar mechanical methods for removal.
- **Temperature:** For best results, apply AcquaTint™ in temperatures ranging from 60°F (15°C) to 95°F (35°C).
- **Profiled:** Perform an absorption test to check if the concrete is ready for sealing. Pour water onto the surface and wait for 3-5 minutes. If the water is not absorbed, the surface will need to be cleaned and etched with **CitrusEtch™** to open the pores of the concrete. Detailed instructions can be found in the CitrusEtch™ TDS. If the concrete absorbs the water, it is ready for AcquaTint™ application.



Note on Porous Surfaces: Poorly finished, broomed, or very old surfaces may absorb AcquaTint™ more deeply, leading to less visible color.

APPLICATION

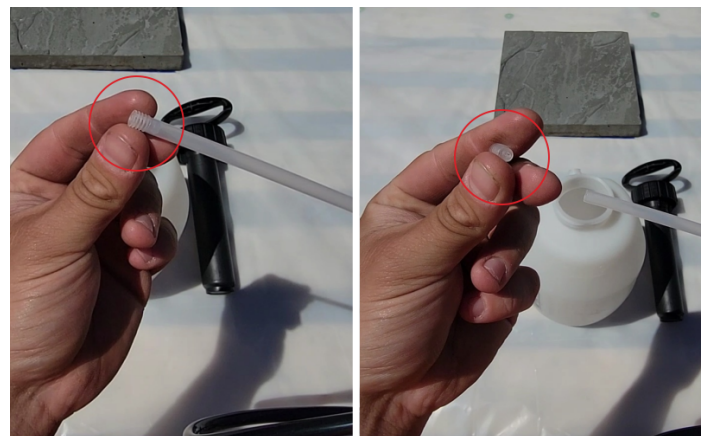
MIXING: Thoroughly mix AcquaTint™ before application. To ensure uniform color across the project, combine contents from different jugs.

WORK AREA PLANNING: Divide the work area into manageable sections. Use natural breaks like walls and joints to your advantage. Be mindful of maintaining wet edges to reduce the appearance of overlap marks.

APPLICATION STEPS:

For Spraying:

- Remove all filters from the pump-up sprayer to prevent clogging.



- Apply the product in a circular motion to ensure even coverage. It is important to apply thin layers to avoid puddling and ensure uniform drying.
- Shake the sprayer frequently to keep the color pigments mixed.
- Start and stop spraying into a bucket or off the work area to prevent drips. Back roll afterwards to smooth out any puddles or overlaps, maintaining a thin, even layer.



For Rolling:

- Use a ¾" nap roller. Allow the roller's weight to apply the product without adding extra pressure, which could cause streaks and uneven coverage. Focus on applying thin, consistent layers.
- Before adding more product to the paint tray, shake the bottle for consistent color.

DRYING AND RECOATING:

- **Dry Time Between Coats:** Allow a waiting period of 6 to 12 hours between coats, which may vary depending on environmental conditions.
- **Testing Dryness:** To check if the surface is ready for the next coat, press it with a thumbnail. If the surface doesn't dent or scratch, it is sufficiently dry for recoating.
- **Coat Application:** Apply the second coat after confirming the first is completely dry.
- **Recommended Coats:** For the best performance and durability, it is advised to apply two coats of AcquaTint™.
- **Application Caution:** Be cautious to avoid heavy application, which can lead to issues such as bubbling, hazing, and other coating imperfections.

LIMITATIONS

- **Batch Variability:** The supply of specialized pigments may vary between batches. To ensure color consistency, use the same batch for the entire job or mix multiple batches together ("boxing").
- **Surface Characteristics:** AcquaTint™ coats the concrete surface with color but does not conceal discolorations, blemishes, cracks, or other surface irregularities. It may accentuate porosity variations and usually appears lighter when dry compared to its wet appearance.

• **Surface Compatibility:** Hard-troweled surfaces or those with smaller pores than AcquaTint™ particles may encounter issues with the stain drying on the surface without proper adhesion. Consider this during surface preparation.

• **Avoid Liquid Contact During Curing:** Ensure no liquids, including sweat, come into contact with AcquaTint™ while it is curing, as this can impact both the curing process and the final finish quality.

• **Wear and Tear:** Like all water-based acrylic sealers, AcquaTint™ is susceptible to surface wear. Its longevity and durability depend on proper application to a suitably prepared surface and will vary based on the volume and type of traffic it endures.

TOPCOAT

Exterior / Heavy Traffic Areas: Apply satin or gloss **AcquaSeal™** water-based clear sealer topcoat for enhanced durability and environmental protection.



Interior Surfaces: Use **ProWax Polish™** as a topcoat to improve the durability and finish of indoor surfaces.



Incompatible Topcoats: Do not use EasySeal™ Solvent-based Sealer over AcquaTint™. As AcquaTint™ is a water-based product, it is not compatible with solvent-based sealers like EasySeal™, which could lead to unsatisfactory results.



Traffic Post-Topcoat:

- **Foot Traffic:** Keep the area free from foot traffic for at least 24 hours to allow the topcoat to properly set.
- **Vehicle Traffic:** Avoid vehicle traffic for 48-72 hours to ensure the sealer fully cures and offers maximum protection.

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

For cleaning tools and equipment after using AcquaTint™, use **ProClean Degreaser™** and warm water.

SAFETY & PRECAUTIONS

CAUTION: Avoid contact with eyes and skin. Do not take internally. In case of eye contact, flush thoroughly with water. In case of skin contact, flush thoroughly with water. If swallowed, do not induce vomiting. Call physician immediately. **KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.**

SHELF LIFE AND STORAGE

AcquaTint™ 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. Do not allow to freeze.

MAINTENANCE

- **Exterior Surfaces:** Regularly inspect sealed areas for signs of thinning or wear due to foot or vehicular traffic. Reapply the sealer as needed to maintain protection and appearance.
- **Interior Surfaces:** Regularly examine surfaces coated with ProWax Polish™ for wear or thinning, especially in high-traffic areas. Reapply the coating as necessary to preserve the surface's integrity and aesthetics.

APPLICATION VIDEO

Scan QR code for step-by-step usage guide applicable to 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.

WARRANTY

AcquaTint™, 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.