EVERSTAIN™ ACID STAIN
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: 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. 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.
- Temperature: Apply when temperatures are between 40°F (4°C) and 95°F (35°C) for optimal results.
- Profiled: Conduct an absorption test to determine if the concrete is ready for staining. Pour water onto the surface and wait 3-5 minutes.

Etching NOT required Etching required

- If the water is not absorbed, clean and etch the surface using CitrusEtch™ concrete Etcher to open the pores of the concrete surface. Scan QR Code below for detailed instructions.

IMPORTANT: Use spiked shoes when etching. If shoe prints are etched onto the concrete surface, you will need to use a mechanical grinder to remove them.

TOOLS REQUIRED

- Personal Safety: Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment as recommended in the Safety Data Sheet.

Preparation Tools
- ProClean Degreaser
- Pressure Washer
- Scrub Brush/Broom/Mop/Bucket
- Wet/Dry Vacuum
- Surface Protector/Tape

Etching Tools (If Required)
- Safety Gear
- Plastic Pump Sprayer
- Spiked Shoes
- CitrusEtch Concrete Etcher
- ProClean Neutralizer
- Scrub Brush/Broom/Mop/Bucket
- Wet/Dry Vacuum

Acid Staining & Neutralizing Tools
- Safety Gear
- EverStain Acid Stain
- Plastic Pump Sprayer/Spray Bottle/Foam Brush
- Spiked Shoes
- ProClean Neutralizer
- Scrub Brush/Broom/Mop/Bucket
- Wet/Dry Vacuum

Sealing Tools
- Safety Gear
- AcquaSeal or EasySeal Concrete Sealer
- Plastic Pump Sprayer or 1/4 ' Nap Roller/Tray

Polishing Tools (Interior Only)
- ProWax Polish Concrete Floor Wax
- 1/4 ' Nap Roller/Tray

PREPARATION

IMPORTANT: EverStain will permanently change the color of your concrete. Once applied, it can't be undone.

- Area Preparation: Cover any surfaces you don't want to stain to avoid accidental application
- Test in a Hidden Spot: Before starting your project, test the stain in an out-of-sight area to see how it reacts. This stain is permanent, so there's no going back.
- Avoid Tape: Don't use tape on concrete surfaces before or after staining, as it can affect how well the stain works.

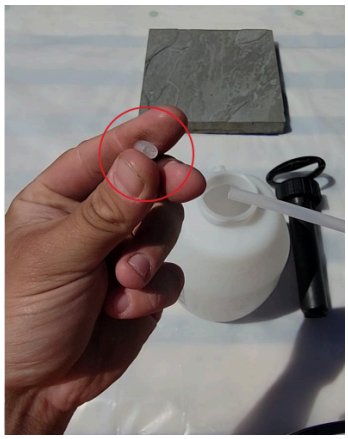
Scan QR Code for a Comprehensive Concrete Surface Preparation Guide

SCAN

TOOLS FOR STAIN APPLICATION

- For Large Applications: Use a garden-type pump sprayer with both the spray tip and sprayer made of plastic with all filters removed.

Locate sprayer filter



Remove sprayer filter

- For Small Projects and color testing: Utilize a small foam applicator, or spray bottle.

Foam brush applicators

All-plastic spray bottle

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, pump it at least 20-30 times to create a fine mist and prevent drops. Then, apply the stain liberally and continuously in a circular motion over the surface. To avoid creating uniform patterns, spray in random circles. This technique helps prevent visual lines in the stain unless you specifically want that effect.

- Consistently maintain a wet edge if you desire a more uniform application.
- 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.

- EverStain acid stain is semi-transparent and won't hide concrete imperfections.
- Final results depend on the composition of the concrete.
- Concrete etching marks will not be concealed by acid staining.
- Proper surface preparation is essential for successful outcomes.

Dry Azure Blue | Wet color test | Satin finish sealer

- 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.
- 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 SMALL PROJECTS

- Utilize a 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.

- 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.

NEUTRALIZING

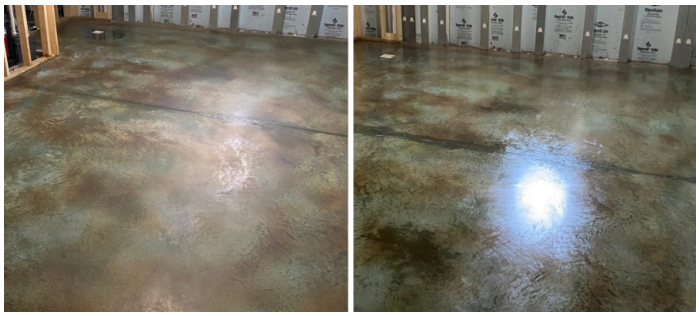
- After drying, EverStain™ Acid Stain leaves a powdery residue. Remove this by neutralizing the surface with a commercial pH neutralizer like ProClean Neutralizer™, ammonia, or baking soda, followed by thorough water flushing and stiff brush scrubbing. Keep in mind, using ammonia will result in strong fumes, and baking soda requires additional cleanup time to remove extra residue.

Acid stains leaves a powdery residue after drying

- 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.
- 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.



Acid stains colors will "pop" after sealer application

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.

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

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.