Globally Proven Construction Solutions

STONETECH® Maintenance & Care
Large Area Sealer Application Methods
MCI-1102

Sealer Application Methods for Large Installations

Proper sealer application provides the maximum performance benefit for stone, masonry and grout applications. The standard application method remains essentially the same no matter how large the area being sealed. The main difference would be how the sealer is applied and any excess material removed.

In order to get the best performance from a STONETECH® sealer the application directions provided may be adapted to the given project. Typically, penetrating sealers are applied to the substrate's surface, allowed to dwell, and then any remaining sealer is wiped off, leaving a dry, clean surface. Subsequent applications are performed in an identical manner, usually after a period of time stated in the product data sheet. Then the applied STONETECH sealer is allowed to cure for the stated period of time.

In scaling up applications for larger areas, the standard methods are adapted to the individual project utilizing available equipment and skilled labour. Typically a crew of 2-4 using standard equipment includes pump sprayers, 450mm floor buffers, floor squeegees, cotton string mops, floor polishing pads, and cotton buffer bonnets is ideal for sealing large projects.

The method described below are shown as directed for sealing large areas with STONETECH® BULLETPROOF® Sealer:

Application
Liberally apply an even coat using a paint pad, roller, brush or low pressure sprayer.

A low pressure, pump type sprayer is the main tool to apply penetrating sealers to large, open areas. Rollers, paint pads, or lamb's wool applicators are used for more confined areas, wainscot, walls and staircases. No matter which method is used to apply the STONETECH BULLETPROOF Sealer the correct application is a thin, wet film of sealer on the surface of the stone.

Dwell Time
Allow sealer to penetrate the surface for 10–15 minutes. During this time, keep the surface wet with sealer, adding more sealer as needed. DO NOT ALLOW SEALER TO COMPLETELY DRY ON THE SURFACE.

In order for the sealer to perform correctly, the sealer must penetrate into the stone. In order for proper saturation the sealer must stay wet on the surface for the suggested dwell time for the product being used.

On a small scale project, the applicator can use a brush or roller to move the sealer over the surface of a floor or countertop. In order to accomplish the same type of action on a large area, the brush or roller can be replaced with a large string mop or a soft bristle push broom. For large areas, a single head floor machine fitted with a polishing pad will help maintain an even wet film.

On large scale applications, keeping the sealer wet on the surface is crucial. Once a sealer dries it can no longer soak into the stone surface. Dried sealer will form a film that can be difficult to clean quickly. In order to accomplish this effectively, the sealer should be kept moving on the surface and more should be added as needed.

Removing the Excess Sealer
Following the final application, thoroughly wipe dry the entire surface with clean absorbent towels.

Once the sealer has saturated the stone surface for the required period of time, any sealer that has not absorbed will need to be completely removed before it dries. On a countertop this can be accomplished with handheld towels. On larger scale projects, squeegees can be used to pull excess sealer to a next section and a cotton bonnet can be fitted to a floor machine to finish drying the surface. Residual streaking can be removed with a floor machine fitted with a natural hair pad.

Additional Coats of Sealer

A second coat may be needed for porous, absorbent surfaces. If a second coat is required, it should be applied 30–40 minutes after the initial application. Additional sealer applications are typically recommended for higher traffic floors. When sealing larger sections care must be taken to not allow too much time to elapse between coats. Adjusting size of each section will allow for proper timing.

Curing

A full cure is achieved in 24–72 hours. Use of the treated surface may resume in 6–8 hours. If use of the surface must resume sooner, cover the treated surface with red rosin paper to protect it until full cure has been achieved.

Penetrating sealers require a cure time for the active ingredients to achieve maximum effectiveness. These curing times are typically 24 – 72 hours or longer. It is important that the stone surface not be subject to cleaning, liquid spills or uncovered foot traffic until full cure is achieved.

Read and follow the data sheet and installation instructions prior to using any STONETECH Sealer.

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