

BUILDER'S INSTRUCTIONS

KEMIKO CONCRETE STAINS

The final appearance of any stained floor project will be determined primarily by **the quality of the concrete pour, the finish of the slab surface and the ongoing protection of that slab during construction.** The builder should be responsible for relaying all of the following information to the concrete contractor, the concrete finisher and all sub-contractors involved. Communication of these issues to all construction personnel is vital to the success of any staining project.

General slab components (optimum) for interior and/or exterior flatwork:

- Five (5) sack mix
- Usually a smooth but porous machine trowel finish
- Not too slick or too hard
- Swirls from troweling will add uniqueness to the floor
- Standard mixture with no additives, fillers or curing agents
- Texturing (hand-troweling) may be used for interior design
- Texturing (broom drags) may be used for exterior slip resistance
- Allow slab to dry for 24 hours before any foot traffic

These issues will have an adverse impact in varying degrees, upon the quality of the finished stained floor:

- Using additives, fillers or curing agents
- Not protecting the slab (with a breathable covering) during early construction, as it needs to cure for 4 to 6 weeks
- Nailing support studs into the concrete
- Spilling or dripping plumber's glue or flux onto the slab
- Using paint sprays to locate floor plan locations or outlets
- Using tape to adhere items to the slab
- Using **muratic acid, acid washes or acid etch** at any time
- Using heavy alkali cleaners on the slab
- Leaving nails or metal on the slab as they will create rust marks
- Using silicone based chalk or crayon as removal is nearly impossible
- Using excessive pencil, chalk line, markers or crayons
- Dripping or spilling plastering, texturing materials or paints (cover the slab)
- Using any cleaning products other than those suggested by Kemiko Distributors
(A complete list of known acceptable cleaners is available from your Kemiko Products Distributor or on www.kemiko-rockymtn.com.)

Some additional issues:

- Protect the slab well during the installation of blown insulation (foam and fiber).
- Pest Control products may have a negative impact as most are petroleum based.
- Always allow complete curing of any patching or filling before attempting to stain.
- Cleanliness and protection are mandatory during all steps of the project although no covering should occur until after the slab has cured.

ALWAYS attempt to perform a test on the slab that is to be stained prior to doing the entire project. Testing is generally imperative as it identifies the potential of each slab. Find an obscure, out-of-the-way area to test (closet, under cabinets) as all slabs (even within a slab) will be different.

Cleaning: All floors (old and new) **must be cleaned** in order for acid stain to react properly. Floors **must be free** from oils, tar, paint, stains, drywall mud and all adverse materials on the concrete.

Project sequence (**NEW CONSTRUCTION**):

BUILDER'S INSTRUCTIONS

KEMIKO CONCRETE STAINS

Scoring: If scoring is desired, it is easier to do when the slab is still green, (two to three days after the pour) although a slab can be scored at any time.

Staining: The four-step process should be followed (see application information) and Kemiko feels that this should occur at the end of construction, but before the baseboards are installed. Staining can be done at any time; however, there are many construction hazards that can have an adverse affect on the final outcome of the finished floor. Professional applicators may have different priorities as to the four-step process and when these steps should occur, but these differences will alter certain costs (primarily cleaning and protection). Builders, applicators and clients **need to discuss** the variables before construction begins.

(REMODELING)

Preparation: Preparing the floor (removal of old flooring) will be the biggest issue. Many applicators will include preparing the floor in their bids and some may not, however, the key issue will be that all adverse materials have been removed before staining.

Scoring: The process for scoring is the same as in new construction, however, several issues in the design of the scoring become important (such as borders).

Staining: (The same four-step process as in 'Staining' above).

NOTE: Kemiko feels that builders should discuss all the variables (positive as well as negative) when assisting customers with the choice of whether to wax or seal. The sealer issues of, 1), the applicator, 2), the application method and 3), excessive volume in any given application should not be overlooked along with others such as sealing capability, slipperiness, skid-resistance and that sealers tend to scratch.

SUMMARY: Acid stain floors offer a natural mottled look with no two areas alike in appearance or color even within a slab. Wide color variations, mottling and various depths of color is normal and usually expected. No exact preview of the final color(s) can be totally achieved; however, we encourage the use of the "Water Test" during testing and the final staining step to obtain the colors nearest to those desired by the customer.

WARRANTY: The following warranty is made in lieu of all warranties, either expressed or implied. This product is manufactured of selected raw materials by technicians. Neither the seller nor manufacturer has any knowledge nor control concerning the purchaser's use of the product and no warranty is made as to the result of any use. The obligation of either the seller or manufacturer shall be to replace any quantity of this product that is proved to be defective. Any claim of the defective product must be received in writing within one (1) year from the date of shipment. Neither the seller nor manufacturer assumes any liability for injury, loss, or damage resulting from the use of the product. Before applying this product verify that the color indicated on the container is the same as the color ordered from Kemiko Rocky Mountain. Kemiko Rocky Mountain expressly disclaims any damages resulting from the application of an inappropriate color of stain.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
CAUTION: CONTAINS ACID
KEEP OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN

Use safety goggles, rubber gloves and rubber apron.