

**Kemiko Rocky Mountain
CLEANING A SLAB FOR A REMODEL PROJECT**

IN REMODELING PROJECTS, YOU GENERALLY HAVE A LARGER AMOUNT OF PREPARATION WORK THAN WHAT WOULD BE NEEDED WITH A NEW SLAB. YOU MAY HAVE CONTAMINANTS ON THE FLOOR SUCH AS PAINT, ADHESIVES, AND TACK STRIP, AMONG OTHERS.

- IF CARPET GLUES, ADHESIVES, AND PAINTS ARE PRESENT, THERE ARE MANY WATER-BORNE STRIPPERS / LIQUIFIERS SUCH AS SOY BEAN PRODUCTS FROM FRANMAR CORPORATION, CITRUS NAMED PRODUCTS, ETC., AND PETROLEUM BASED SUCH AS XYLENE, LACQUER THINNER AND MINERAL SPIRITS.
- IF TACK STRIP IS PRESENT, IT CAN BE REMOVED IN SEVERAL WAYS, BUT BASICALLY YOU WANT TO CUT THE WOOD INTO PIECES, LEAVING THE NAILS IMBEDDED IN THE CONCRETE AND THEN CUT THEM OFF WITH A SMALL ROTARY TYPE CUTTER (DREMEL TOOL). IF HOLES HAVE BEEN LEFT IN REMOVING THE TACK STRIP, A 'PORTLAND CEMENTITIOUS MATERIAL' MUST BE USED WHEN PATCHING AS ACID STAIN WILL NOT PRODUCE COLOR WITH SYNTHETIC PATCH MATERIALS. (SEE: Ltr, Remodeling Tips).
- SCORING (CREATING PATTERNS SUCH AS SEEN ON OUR WEB SITE) SHOULD BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE FINAL WASHING OF THE SLAB.

AFTER ALL THE MAJOR CONTAMINANTS HAVE BEEN REMOVED, AND THE SCORING HAS BEEN COMPLETED, THE FINAL WASH IS BEST ACCOMPLISHED WITH A SLOW SPEED FLOOR MACHINE, A GOOD SYNTHETIC SCRUB BRUSH ATTACHMENT, WATER, AND A GOOD ALL-PURPOSE CLEANER SUCH AS KEMIKO NEUTRA CLEAN. SCRUB THE FLOOR WELL USING A WET VACUUM TO REMOVE THE WATER AND DEBRIS. THIS SCRUB AND WASH PROCESS MAY HAVE TO BE DONE SEVERAL TIMES. A FINAL WATER RINSE WILL INSURE THE REMOVAL OF ALL DEBRIS.

MOPS, HAND-HELD AND/OR LONG-HANDLED BROOM BRUSHES MAY BE USED; HOWEVER THE TASK WILL REQUIRE MORE PHYSICAL LABOR, AND REMEMBER ALL RESIDUES MUST BE REMOVED.

ALLOW THE FLOOR TO DRY AND BEGIN THE STAIN PROCESS.

CLEANING A NEW SLAB

A KEY TO CLEANING AND STAINING A NEW SLAB IS TO KEEP THE SLAB PROTECTED DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PROCESS. IF NOT, YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO TREAT IT AS A REMODEL AS ALL THE CONSTRUCTION MISHAPS (PAINT, RUST, FLUID SPILLS, ETC.); WILL HAVE TO BE REMEDIED BEFORE STAINING.

AFTER SCORING, IF THE SLAB HAS BEEN PROTECTED, AND IF THE FOUR TO SIX WEEK CURE TIME HAS BEEN MET, THE CLEANING PROCESS SHOULD PROCEED AS FOLLOWS:

REMOVE THE PROTECTION MATERIAL FROM THE FLOOR.

REMEDY ANY MAJOR CONTAMINATION ISSUES AND THEN THE FINAL WASH IS BEST ACCOMPLISHED WITH A SLOW SPEED FLOOR MACHINE, A GOOD SYNTHETIC SCRUB BRUSH ATTACHMENT, WATER, AND A GOOD ALL-PURPOSE CLEANER SUCH AS NEUTRA CLEAN OR 'TSP' (TRI-SODIUM PHOSPHATE). SCRUB THE FLOOR WELL USING A WET VACUUM TO REMOVE THE WATER AND DEBRIS. THIS SCRUB AND WASH PROCESS MAY HAVE TO BE DONE SEVERAL TIMES. A FINAL WATER RINSE WILL INSURE THE REMOVAL OF ALL DEBRIS.

MOPS, HAND-HELD AND/OR LONG-HANDLED BROOM BRUSHES MAY BE USED; HOWEVER THE TASK WILL REQUIRE MORE PHYSICAL LABOR.

ALLOW THE FLOOR TO DRY; THEN BEGIN THE STAIN PROCESS.

SCORING

IF SCORING (CREATING A PATTERN) IS DESIRED, IT IS GENERALLY BEST ACCOMPLISHED TWO TO THREE DAYS AFTER THE POUR OF THE CONCRETE; HOWEVER, IT CAN BE DONE AT ANY TIME. THERE ARE SEVERAL FACTORS THAT MAY ALTER THE DESIRED TIME OF SCORING AND THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE WILL BE WHETHER THE DESIGN ITSELF IS INCORPORATED INTO THE FLOOR PLAN.

- **LAYOUT:**

- 1 – There are a number of ways to begin laying out a pattern, and how and when you begin will depend primarily on the project shape, whether the staining project is to commence before any building or after the studs are in place, or just prior to the base boards being affixed.
- 2 – If you want the pattern to be synonymous with the floor plan, you will wait for the walls and likewise you will probably choose to do a border score even if you do not apply a different color in the border area.
- 3 – If your score pattern will not be synonymous with the floor plan, scoring in two to three days after pour is easier on the saw blades and the score groove can be cut right off the edge of the slab. However, you must still decide in advance how to center your patten into the project square footage.

NOTE: A MORE COMPLETE CLEANING PRODUCTS LIST AND A DO'S AND DONT'S LIST FOR BUILDERS, CONTRACTORS, AND DO-IT-YOURSELFERS IS AVAILABLE ON THIS WEBSITE OR THROUGH OUR OFFICE.