

- wet sand with finer grits (320 or 400)
- cover for five more days
- wet sand with 600 grit, rinse, dry
- paint with penetrating sealer
- let dry and wax



Detail of a concrete surface, where tool marks have been filled in with a lighter mix.

The surface finishing of concrete is a combination of scraping or abrading (either for developing form or smoothing) and filling in negative areas. This process often goes on for several days before you get the desired effect. Remember to keep the piece well covered with plastic between sessions, and also to keep it damp by misting with water while you are working on it.

Surface Colour

Acid stains etch the surface of the concrete, opening it up to penetration. The coloured metallic salts in the stain combine with the hydrated lime (calcium hydroxide) in the surface. The typical colours of black, brown, blues and greens are durable, but usually protected with a sealer (such as acrylic, siloxane, urethane, epoxy). ConcreteNetwork.com has more details. The stains can be applied with a brush or a sprayer – one that will not be affected by acid.

WARNING!

Acid stains are corrosive (hydrochloric acid). Read the MSDS and label carefully. Wear safety goggles, gloves, and a protective apron.

Opaque water-based stains designed for outdoor use also work well but are not as durable. They work best when applied to a cured surface that is damp. Brush it on, and then wipe it off with a damp cloth or sponge, removing most of the dye from the high parts. The dye exaggerates the relief and texture of the surface. If the colour is not strong enough, repeat the process.