

Care & Treatment of Stained Concrete Floors...

A concrete floor that has been acid-stained, sealed and finished with one of The Concrete Studio product systems will provide a beautiful surface that is durable, slip resistant and low-maintenance. Below are some important things to keep in mind about caring for your finished concrete.

◆ **CURING PERIOD:** If your floor is newly finished **it is important that the sealed and finished concrete is allowed a full, uninterrupted cure period.** This means that for a period of at least three days after application of the finish no activity other than light foot traffic – no shoes, socks only – should take place on the floor. Ambient air temperature should remain above 50 F. degrees; no construction activity should take place on or around the floor; no movement across or placement on the floor of furniture, appliances, fixtures, etc. It is important that the floor remain uncovered while curing. No liquids should contact the surface; no adhesives of any kind should be applied to the floor. Until the surface is completely cured no attempt should be made to dry or wet clean the floor. Any type of cure failure may result in adhesion and hardness deficiencies that may permanently damage the finished floor.

◆ **CLEANING:** We recommend **light and regular dry cleaning** by means of dust mopping, sweeping, vacuuming, etc. When necessary **damp mopping is fine, use clean water, a light mild soap/water mixture, or a neutral cleaner** is fine. Best results are achieved by damp mopping to clean, and a second damp mopping with fresh water. Use only as much water as needed and never water-flood the floor. **Avoid harsh or abrasive cleaners** as these may damage the finish. **Do not use ammonia** as most floor finishes we apply are designed to be removed with ammoniated strippers (this will not permanently damage your floor but will dull the appearance and may require reapplication of finish). Pre-treated 'swiffer' type mops are fine. Scuffs and other traffic marks can often be removed with surface cleaners such as Formula 409, etc. Remove spills as soon as possible; most household and food products will not damage the floor if removed promptly. Avoid solvents and never use abrasive products to clean the floor. The application of wax and other topical treatments is not recommended (except as noted below); these products will usually not add hardness or protection and may eventually require stripping.

The best method for preserving your floor's good looks is regular non-abrasive dry cleaning to remove dirt and debris that may mar the surface, and occasional light damp mopping with water or neutral cleaner as needed.

◆ **CARE:** A stained and sealed concrete floor is a finished floor. Despite the inherent hardness and durability of the substrate **care must be taken to avoid cosmetic damage to the finish and actual damage to the sealer and the concrete itself.** Do not allow the surface to come into contact with sharp or abrasive objects. Furniture, fixtures, etc. should always have smooth, rounded, or rubber-tipped bases or bottoms. Never push or drag large or heavy objects (e.g. furniture) over the surface. Avoid leaving or dropping hard, heavy objects such as tools, toys, etc. on the floor. Never use paint, glue or other adhesives on or around the uncovered floor, and never secure floor coverings with tape or other adhesive device. Do not allow food, drinks, chemicals, acids, etc. to come into contact with the floor; should this happen immediately remove with a clean dry or water-moistened towel; do not allow contamination to remain in contact with the floor any longer than possible.

Sealed and finished stained concrete floors are not scratch- and scuff-proof. The concrete sealer, applied during installation directly to the concrete, is permanent under normal conditions. With proper care sealed concrete floors will never require stripping of the sealer. Finished floors may be revitalized with burnishing (high-speed buffing with screening/polishing pads) to restore gloss and remove superficial scuffs and scratches. If your floor has been finished with an acrylic topcoat additional application of this product may also be used to restore its appearance. Reapplication of finish is not a part of regular maintenance; some floors may never need this treatment. The Concrete Studio may be able to repair and/or refinish cosmetically damaged floors, but **all visits after job completion are subject to a trip charge minimum, plus cost of repairs if applicable.**

Your stained and finished concrete, as a finished floor treatment, is similar in its treatment and cleaning requirements to most other finished hard surface flooring, such as stone, marble, brick, or wood. Anything that can damage or disfigure these floors is likely to also have a detrimental effect on your stained concrete floor. In each case it is the floor finishing that takes the abuse in order to protect the substrate, and no floor protection system is indestructible. The Concrete Studio finishing system used on your floor provides high quality, strength, durability, and with proper care will afford years of functional beauty.