

## Important Information about Concrete Staining & Scoring...

For Contractors, Builders, Designers, Property Owners & Decision Makers

### SURFACE CONDITION & PREPARATION:

New concrete should be finished smooth for best results with acid staining. Concrete cure/seal products should be avoided. If used, ensure compatibility with later acid staining on cured concrete. It is important that the concrete be kept as clean as possible during all phases of building or remodeling done prior to staining.

Always use *BLUE CHALK* when framing. *DO NOT NAIL* bracing into the concrete or otherwise physically damage the surface of the concrete. The concrete should be *COVERED* with kraft paper, cardboard, or plastic as soon as possible after the structure is under roof, with special attention paid to securing coverage along the perimeter where trim paint will be heaviest. *DO NOT TAPE* the floor covering directly to the concrete.

The concrete must be protected from paint splatters and overspray, foam insulation, paint rings from containers, glue, solvents, grease, tire tracks, indelible markers, acid, red framing chalk, etc. Markers, red chalk, pencil, etc. that are applied to the green concrete may cure-in and become difficult or impossible to remove. Areas to be stained should never be used as paint rooms or workshops by other contractors.

Any substance that has the ability to penetrate the pores of the concrete may become permanent and prove detrimental to subsequent acid staining; contaminants may be removable from the surface but often cannot be removed from the pores of the concrete.

The single largest price variable in concrete staining is the labor cost involved in front-end cleaning and surface preparation. Remember – anything on or in the concrete that shouldn't be there and cannot be removed may adversely affect the staining process, the appearance of the finished floor, and the price.

### SCORING:

Scoring for new construction may be done before framing or installation of interior partitions. Early open-slab cutting allows scorelines to run flush to/beneath walls/fixtures, if desired. Scoring in this manner allows a continuous pattern across two or more rooms

Scoring for new construction done after framing or installation of interior partitions (and scoring for existing structures) means scorelines can run no closer to walls than approximately 4". If scoring consists of a repeating area-wide pattern this will necessitate a border, or perimeter, scoreline to provide an end-point 'capture' of the pattern lines.

Border-only scoring, and scoring of patterns or designs requiring exact dimensions or placement relative to walls/fixtures is done after framing to ensure fixed reference points (plates, walls, etc.).

Scoring is usually done before staining but may be done afterward for a more defined, lighter unstained look. Scorelines may also be colored to complement or contrast the floor color(s). Scorelines may be grouted, although not recommended.

Scoring is for decorative purposes and should not be more than ~1/4" deep (unless grouted). Popular scoring options are repeating patterns of 16" – 48" squares or diamonds, although almost any conceivable design can be cut into the concrete, such as freestanding custom designs, logos, irregular patterns (e.g., stone, slate, geometric, etc.), 'floating' shapes, etc. *Scoreline cutting is decorative and has no structural effect on the concrete slab.*

If scoring is not performed by The Concrete Studio take care to employ an individual or firm that understands decorative, aesthetic sawcutting techniques and can execute them precisely. Always use blue or other non-staining chalk when snapping the score pattern.

# The Concrete Studio

## Stained Concrete Flooring

Unique Concrete

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### SCHEDULING:

*New Construction:* Ideally, staining should be done in two phases:

1) The floor should be cleaned, stained and covered after tape/bed/texture and BEFORE installation of cabinetry, fixtures, trim, appliances, etc. Painting and all other finish-out activities will then take place over the covered floor.

2) Sealing and finishing of the floor will be performed after all other construction jobs and processes (except touch-up painting) are completed.

See 'Job Scheduling of Stained Concrete Floors' document in the 'Downloads' section for more information on new construction scheduling.

*Renovation:* Depending upon the scope of the other work, staining should either be done as above or in one continuous process at the very end of all construction and finish-out activities.

Stained floors should never be sealed and finished until all other construction activity is complete. If staining is performed after installation of baseboards, cabinets, etc., some cosmetic damage may occur and touch-up will be necessary. Alert The Concrete Studio to any use of particle board, MDF, composites, stain-grade wood, etc., in trim, cabinets, etc.

### CURING:

The sealed and finished floor must be completely cured before the floor is available for use (the only exception being occasional light foot traffic – no shoes).

*Failure to allow the floor to properly cure may result in a permanently damaged surface and will result in significant additional cost (sometimes equal to or exceeding the original job cost) and delay in refinishing the surface, IF this option is available.*

The Concrete Studio is not responsible for surface damage occasioned by this mistreatment and generally will not perform remedial work even if such work is feasible.

### JOB REQUIREMENTS:

The work area or job site must provide the following:

- ◆ Electrical power and adequate lighting;
- ◆ Water source and disposal area;
- ◆ Weather-proofed site & surface;
- ◆ Installed windows and doors with locks;
- ◆ Air and slab temperature must be >50 Degrees F.
- ◆ Adequate ventilation;
- ◆ Exclusive use of all areas to be stained for the duration of each phase/process.