ETCH & CLEAN INSTRUCTIONS

Introduction

Concrete that hasn't been treated in any way after being poured has a latency layer or cement paste which is weak.
This needs to be removed to ensure that the sealer can effectively penetrate and adhere to your concrete.

Etching (or washing) concrete the concrete opens the pores and prepares the surface to accept its next treatment. Though it's also possible to prepare the concrete manually by abrading it with a sander, etching is generally much less labour-intensive.

Equipment Required

1. PPE - nitrile gloves, eye protection, respiratory protection with vapour filters
2. water sprayer
3. 2 x clean cloths
4. squeegee
5. Etch & Clean Solution
6. Etch & Clean Neutralising Solution
7. Clean Water

Preparation

1. Move any objects that may stain or be damaged. Etch and Clean Solution will permanently damage surfaces if it's allowed to remain in contact with them even for short periods.

2. Put on your PPE. These should include nitrile gloves, eye protection and respiratory protection with vapour filters. Furthermore you should wear long-sleeved tops and trousers to ensure there are no splashes on bare skin.

Application

1. Apply Etch & Clean Solution from the bottle using a dampened cloth (Cloth 1). Work the solution into the concrete. The texture of the surface will change and become slightly rougher and this slight roughness should be uniform across the concrete. This can take up to about 5 minutes depending on the surface area. Once the surface feels uniformly "rougher" then this is the time to stop.
2. Wash off the surface of the concrete using a water sprayer containing clean water and a squeegee.
3. Apply the Etch & Clean Neutralising Solution in the same way as the Etch & Clean Solution using a clean cloth (Cloth 2). Work the neutraliser into the concrete for five minutes to ensure the effects of step 1 have been halted.
4. Wash down the concrete again using the water sprayer and squeegee.

You are now ready to sand your concrete.

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