

Neocrete Job Specifications for Acid Stain

Two of the most important factors that contribute to the successful outcome of an acid stained floor are the finish of the concrete and the care the concrete has received during construction. All concrete can have imperfections, cracking and variations in texture and color. This is generally accepted as character and part of the natural beauty of stained floors.

The best finish for acid staining is a steel troweled surface. Variation, trowel marks and a slight burnish are very desirable. Over burnishing the concrete (to a dark gray) can make a dense surface and will reduce the penetration of acid. Aggregate, including sand and gravel will not accept stain therefore the concrete must be finished enough to bring up a heavy cream. Broom finishes can be stained but will result in less variation and deeper color tone.

Do not use any curing or sealing compounds. Modifiers such as fly ash can affect the final color of acid stain and should be avoided. Fiber reinforcement is not recommended with acid stained floors as the fiber will show in the finish. Avoid walking on the slab until it has surface dried or you will leave permanent footprints.

Control joints should be cut within three days of slab placement. Score cutting can be done before framing begins. Score cutting done after wall placement generally requires the use of a border.

Keep the concrete clean and swept at all times. Do not leave lumber or other materials on the slab, in the same location, for extended periods of time. This will cause uneven curing and can leave permanent "ghost marks".

Because the slab becomes your finished floor remember to plan ahead for floor transitions such as thresholds and trim. Use orange florescent chalk to lay out walls as it is less indelible. Brace exterior walls to a sill plate during rough framing. A Ram Set will leave holes in the concrete so avoid using in areas that will be visible, such as doorways and cased openings.

Do not to write or paint on floors (especially permanent marker, which is permanent). If necessary use a pencil.

The most important aspect is letting all contractors know the slab will be your finished floor. Glue, adhesives, caulk, grease, oil, PVC primer and glue, paint, stain, mortar, rust, food and drinks are all difficult, if not impossible to remove from porous concrete, compromising the finished product and increasing costs.

It is the responsibility of the owner, builder and subcontractors to maintain the concrete during the building process. Because we cannot be onsite to ensure its care, it is recommended to protect the concrete during construction with a **breathable membrane** such as rosin paper, roofing felt or Thermo Ply available at building supply stores. **Do not use plastic.** When installing a floor covering overlap the material and tape to itself. **Do not apply tape directly to the concrete** even if using painters, or quick release tape.

Concrete should reach a 28 day cure. Normal installation of acid stain is done after sheet rock and **prior to finish work** i.e.... cabinetry, paint, tile and fixtures. The project must be 'dried in' (roof, windows and exterior doors in place) with access to clean running water and electric. On exterior concrete, installation occurs before the finish coat of stucco, paint, stone, bricks, pavers, screening or railings are in place.

Prior to our arrival the area must be swept and all building materials, equipment, fixtures and trash removed. Neocrete will not be liable for these items and will **charge a fee for their removal.** Taping off surrounding surfaces including walls, trim, doors, windows, cabinetry and fixtures is offered at an additional charge however Neocrete assumes no responsibility for damage to any surface during the staining process. Before work begins an assessment of the concrete will be made. **If excessive cleaning, such as drywall compound, paint, mortar or adhesives is necessary, additional charges will be incurred and can be quite costly!**

Once the staining process is complete an inspection of the floor and **final payment is required** at that time. Again, after installation you **must protect the surface** with a breathable membrane (see above). It is very important that the protection be installed properly and last through the duration of the project. **Absolutely no solvents** of any kind should be allowed on the floor surface. We also recommend signage be placed at several locations so all workers know that they are responsible for the finished floor. Neocrete will be happy to assist with any problems or questions you have with regard to protecting the floor.

Disclaimer

Neocrete will make every effort to ensure a professional application. Since we do not control the surface to which the stain is applied, or problems that may exist within the surface, **we disclaim any and all responsibility or warranties, expressed or implied, in the results obtained from its use.**

I have read, understand and agree to the above specifications and Disclaimer.

Signature

Date