

SEALING CONCRETE, STONE, AND MASONRY

The reason for sealing concrete and masonry surfaces is based primarily on the type of protection needed. The table below gives you some examples. As a general rule, penetrating sealers are extremely efficient against water penetration with the exception of fluoro-polymers which also block out grease and oil. None of these products improve or change the surface appearance.

Film forming sealers such as acrylics, urethanes, and epoxies actually form a film on the concrete or masonry surface. Urethanes and epoxies are extremely expensive, difficult to apply, and urethanes in general have a tendency to yellow outdoors. For this reason, and the all around benefits they offer, most people choose acrylics as the surface sealer of choice.

SOLVENT-BASED ACRYLICS: The primary benefit of solvent-based acrylic sealers is appearance enhancement. A deep rich "wet look" is created. This is especially useful on stone, exposed aggregate, concrete and colored concrete. (Product Example: *White Mountain "Wet Look" Lacquer*)

WATER BASED ACRYLICS: Water-based acrylics are the best all purpose protection available. They offer color enhancement (less gloss than the solvent-based version), last much longer outdoors, have excellent resistance to UV degradation and foot traffic abrasion, and they are the least expensive of all sealers. Water-based acrylics are also extremely effective at protecting against oil, grease, dirt and water intrusion. They are non-flammable, biodegradable and extremely easy to apply and clean up. (Product Example: *White Mountain Seal-Lock* includes sand stabilizer for interlocking pavers, and *White Mountain Crystal-Seal* an all purpose sealer.)

CLEANING CONCRETE AND MASONRY SURFACES

To remove and clean off oil, grease, all around dirt and grime, and tire marks, use alkaline high pH cleaners. (Product Example: *White Mountain Jobsite Cleaner*).

To remove and clean off efflorescence, grout and mortar, and rust stains (radiator, etc.) use acidic low pH cleaners (Product Example: *White Mountain Efflorescence Remover*).

SEALER	\$\$	APPEARS	UV RESIST	FOOT TRAFFIC RESIST	COLOR ENHANCE & SAND STABILIZER	STOPS OIL & GREASE PENETRATION	STOPS WATER PENETRATION	ALL AROUND USE & PROTECTION
SILICONE	X	N/C	YES	EX	NONE	POOR	EX	FAIR
URETHANES	XXX	HIGH GLOSS	POOR	GOOD	YES	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
SILANE	XX	N/C	YES	EX	NONE	POOR	EX	FAIR
SILOXANE	XX	N/C	YES	EX	NONE	POOR	EX	FAIR
FLOURO	XXX	N/C	YES	FAIR	NONE	EX	GOOD	GOOD
SOLVENT ACRYLIC	XX	HIGH GLOSS	YES	GOOD	YES	GOOD	FAIR	EX
WATER-BASE ACRYLIC	X	MED. GLOSS	YES	EX	YES	EX	EX	EX

X=Inexpensive XX=Moderate Cost XXX=Expensive EX=Excellent N/C=No Change in Surface Appearance