

# — THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN — Dyes, Stains & Pigments

## DYES

A super fine powder that can be dispersed in a solvent or water and sprayed in a fine mist over the concrete surface.

- Great for existing slabs of concrete
- Dry quickly, which allows you to introduce more colors if desired and seal the surface right away
- Wide range of color options

### Tips for Application:

1. Always do a mockup or sample area before doing the whole job. Sealers will enhance color; be sure the customer sees the color sealed vs unsealed.
2. Dyes will highlight existing stains and imperfections of the concrete. Make sure you educate the buyer.
3. If spraying, always start and stop in a container to avoid dripping. The dye dries too fast to eliminate the drip marks.
4. Introducing saw cuts to the floor will help you fix any coloring mishaps. It's much easier to fix a 3 in. by 3 in. square than the whole room.

Source: Brett cline, sales manager at Super-Krete of Texas

### Tips for Application

1. Both film-forming and penetrating stains can be applied with a sprayer, roller or brush. A sponge can provide more control, creativity and texture to achieve a multi-toned approach when applying penetrating stains.
2. When applying any stain, the concrete surface must be void of any paint, stain, coatings or sealers and thoroughly clean. Unlike film-forming and penetrating stains, however, acid stains require a surface be cleaned without chemicals.
3. While a sealer is recommended but not required with film-forming or penetrating stains, it must be applied on acid stained concrete surfaces to fully develop the desired marbling effect.

Source: Brett cline, sales manager at Super-Krete of Texas

## STAINS

There are three types of stains, which come in a variety of colors, tints, shades and textures. Each uses different technology to create distinct decorative looks.

**Film-forming**—Like paint, these stains coat or lay on top of a concrete surface.

- Dry quickly, which allows you to introduce more colors if desired and seal the surface right away
- Wide range of color options

**Penetrating**—Penetrate into the pores of concrete and bond to the concrete, minimizing the possibility of it fading, peeling or flaking.

- Available in an assortment of tints and shades ranging from very light translucent colors to bright and bold solid colors.
- User friendly
- Typically water-based and translucent, meaning they do not hide surface defects or flaws.

**Acid stains**—Chemically react with the minerals in concrete to generate a natural-looking marble appearance by physically etching the surface.

- Slightly more expensive
- Require more safety precautions and experience to apply than the film-forming and penetrating stains.
- Very little control of acid stains, so if the concrete slab isn't level, the stain will puddle and appear darker in those areas.

## PIGMENTS

Impart black, white or a color to other materials. Can be applied either integrally or topically to achieve a uniform look.

**Integral Application**—Pigments are added to the cementitious mix for a full depth of color so that when scratched or worn the color remains consistent.

**Topical Application**—The main topical application is achieved by broadcasting the pigment (pre-blended with cement and other materials) on the surface of freshly poured concrete. They are then worked into wet concrete to create a uniform look.

- Can be used for antiquing concrete to create a molded look.
- Available as a powdered substance that is mixed with a liquid in which it is relatively insoluble and used to impart color to coating materials (such as paints) or to inks, plastics, and rubber.
- The main type of pigment used in coloring concrete is Synthetic Iron Oxide, which can be left in its original powder form or dispersed into a liquid to create liquid pigments.

### Tips for Application:

1. Always do a mockup for the customer.
2. When using pigments in over-lays, it's best to have the same person adding the pigment.
3. Always read the data sheets before using any products.

Source: Brett cline, sales manager at Super-Krete of Texas

