



High Performance Building

Consumer Solutions

## Effective Mixing of DOWSIL™ 983 Structural Glazing Sealant Catalyst Gray

**DOWSIL™**

Tech Talk



DOWSIL™ 983 Structural Glazing Sealant Catalyst Gray has become a trending color for use in unique and iconic facades fabricated using the proven technology of structural silicone glazing. The catalyst is one component of a two-part structural sealant technology. Two-part structural sealants require the use of metered pumping and mixing equipment to properly apply the sealant to meet the necessary structural and adhesive requirements in high performance buildings.

As part of the aging process, at around 4 months, the gray catalyst can separate up to several inches which may require more aggressive mixing requirements to quickly and effectively reincorporate the separation before installation onto the pumping equipment.

The following is the recommended practice for mixing catalyst that does not exhibit light separation.

### Equipment

- 18V Cordless Hand Drill with ½” Drill Chuck
- Albion® 381-G01 Wide Blade Catalyst Mixer for 5 Gallon Containers (see Figure 1)

Figure 1: Albion® 381-G01 Mixing Blade



### Procedure

1. Secure mixing blade onto 18V cordless drill into ½” chuck and tighten.
2. Ensure that the drill is not set in “Hammer” or “Driver” position if capable.
3. Insert mixing blade into the middle of the pail approximately 1” from the bottom of the pail.
4. Lightly engage drill to slowly begin mixing process. Typically the full RPM of the drill is not needed to properly reincorporate material. Light mixing at a few hundred RPM is usually adequate and prevents “slinging” of the material outside of the pail.
5. Slowly work the mixing blade up and down in the pail while slowly working from the middle to the perimeter of the pail.
6. Do not lift the mixing blade to the surface of the material, keep it immersed at least 1” to 2” at all times.
7. Mixing times typically take 1.5 to 3 minutes.
8. Slowly remove the mixing blade at a very low RPM once the catalyst has been reincorporated and clean blade.

Once the catalyst has been reincorporated, it is ready to install onto the pumping equipment.

### Notes

- Only use light mixing with the blade and drill. Overly aggressive mixing or mixing with the blade exposed at the surface of the catalyst may increase incorporation of air into the material which should be strictly avoided.
- Catalyst with only light separation at the surface of the material can be hand mixed with a metal spatula in about 30 to 45 seconds.
- Catalyst without separation does not need to be mixed.
- Perform mixing in well-ventilated areas.
- Wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment when mixing.
- Consult Safety Data Sheet for additional information.

For further information on DOWSIL™ high performance building products, please visit [consumer.dow.com/construction](http://consumer.dow.com/construction).

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