



HOW TO SEAL CONCRETE

SOLVENT-BASED SEALER APPLICATION GUIDE



THE TOOLS

Be sure to wear **safety glasses and gloves** to avoid coming into direct contact with the sealer.

For preparation of the concrete surface, you'll need:

- a water source
- mild detergent cleaner such as TSP
- six-inch rectangular stiff bristle broom (sometimes called a deck brush)
- pressure washer, for best results
- or –
- a garden hose with a high-pressure nozzle

For application of the sealer, you'll need:

- an industrial, hand-held pump sprayer with a half gallon per minute spray tip (the Chapin Xtreme™ Industrial Concrete Sprayer is recommended)
- 3/8" nap solvent resistant roller
- roller frame on a pole
- plastic drop cloths

Some jobs may also require a paint brush for areas the roller cannot reach. Finally, you'll need caution tape to clearly mark off the area during the process.

THE BASICS

This guide describes how to apply Euclid Chemical solvent-based topical sealers to exterior concrete. It will review the tools you will need, how to prepare the surface area, ideal environmental conditions for use of the sealer, the step-by-step application process and how to safely clean up the area following application. Keep in mind that Euclid Chemical concrete sealers are best applied by experienced professionals.

Before proceeding, verify that your concrete actually needs to be resealed.

Applying too many coats of sealer over a span of years can lead to problems with the sealer bubbling, turning white or flaking. To test the concrete surface and determine if all previous sealer has truly worn off, some contractors will scrub on a heavy application of xylene, a solvent found in most home improvement stores. The xylene will re-wet any previous coats of sealer, and often will bring the sealer back to life and the concrete will not need to be re-sealed. If several coats of sealer have been applied over the years, sometimes the concrete will need to be completely stripped of sealer. This will provide a "clean slate" so that the concrete can be protected with a thin application of sealer.

To properly apply the sealer, allow yourself plenty of time – at least 48 to 72 hours from start to finish. You will also need to recruit a helper, as this is a two-person job. For safety and handling procedures, make sure you read and understand the instructions on the sealer's technical data sheet and Safety Data Sheet prior to application. Both documents are available online at www.euclidchemical.com.

SURFACE PREPARATION

Concrete surfaces to be sealed should be in good condition. Oil and other stains should be spot-cleaned before performing an overall wash of the concrete surface. Begin this washing step by pre-wetting the surface with water. Be sure to hose out debris from joints and cracks in the concrete.

Next, use your detergent cleaner and deck brush to scrub the concrete and loosen dirt and contaminants. Rinse the surface with clean water using a pressure washer or hose.



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SURFACE PREPARATION *continued*

Finally, allow the surface to fully dry, preferably overnight. Note that dark spots mean that the surface is still wet. **The concrete is dry when it becomes one, even color.**

It is critical to consider the weather conditions under which you'll be applying the sealer. For best results, apply the sealer at the coolest part of the day (typically early in the morning) and avoid sealing the concrete when it is in direct sunlight. As a general rule of thumb, if the concrete is hot to the touch, then it is too hot to apply the sealer. The same goes for cans of sealer and your sprayer – they must be stored in a cool environment, out of direct sunlight. It is also important to make sure there is no rain in the forecast for at least 24 hours.

APPLICATION

Start by reading the sealer's technical data sheet, which contains the coverage rate. It is CRITICAL to apply the sealer according to the recommended coverage rate and not over-apply. More sealer is not better! Applying a heavy coat of sealer, or too many coats, will result in the sealer bubbling, peeling, and turning white. Measure the area to be sealed and using the coverage rate, calculate exactly how much sealer should be applied. If you need help determining how much sealer to apply, use the product calculator or smart phone app available at euclidchemical.com. It will do the math for you.

Next, cover any surrounding shrubs or buildings with the plastic drop cloth to protect them from sealer overspray. Do not remove the drop cloth until application is complete and you have finished cleaning up the area.

You are now ready to begin the application process.

First, pour the sealer into the sprayer and pump it to create pressure. When applying the sealer, spray lightly and evenly in a back-and-forth pattern from joint to joint to ensure a smooth coat. Keep the sprayer pressure high at all times, and stop every 15 seconds to re-pump. Be sure to keep your spray tip 8 to 12 inches from the surface of the concrete while spraying.

While you are applying the sealer, your helper should follow you and immediately back roll the applied sealer perpendicular to you. This is done to remove lap marks and ensure an even appearance. Use a paint brush to spread the sealer in areas the roller cannot reach and in large gaps or joints where it may puddle too heavily. When complete, be sure to mark the area with caution tape until the sealer is dry. The drying time will vary depending on weather conditions, but it's recommended to allow 24 hours before opening up the area to use.

CLEAN-UP

To clean up, first spray any remaining sealer back into its original can, and re-seal the pour spout. Unused sealer can be properly stored in a cool place and reused. Next, pour up to one gallon of xylene into the sprayer and then spray it into a waste container. Be sure to follow all the precautions printed on the can of xylene when using this solvent. **Lastly, safely dispose of the solvent waste and any rags used for cleaning in accordance with your local laws and regulations.**

Thank you for choosing Euclid Chemical sealers!



To view an instructional video on how to apply concrete sealers, visit the Euclid Chemical YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/EuclidChemicalCo