PROSOCO® SafEtch® Cleaning Specification

Specifier Note: The information provided below is intended to guide the Architect in developing specifications for products manufactured by PROSOCO, Inc. and should not be viewed as a complete source of information about the product(s). The Architect should always refer to the Product Data Sheet and SDS for additional recommendations and for safety information.

Specifier Note: Paragraph below is for PART 1 GENERAL, Quality Assurance.

# Test Area

Test a minimum 4 ft. by 4 ft. area on each type of masonry. Use manufacturer’s application instructions. Let the test panel dry 3 to 7 days before inspection. Keep test panels available for comparison throughout the cleaning project.

Specifier Note: Paragraphs below are for PART 2 PRODUCTS, Manufacturers and Products.

# Manufacturer

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# Product Description

PROSOCO SafEtch® is an effective, safe alternative to traditional acidic compounds for cleaning and preparing horizontal or vertical concrete for application of additional coatings, including hardeners/densifiers and clear or pigmented coatings. On fired clay surfaces, SafEtch® effectively removes common construction and atmospheric soiling, including excess grout and mortar modified with latex or other acrylic additives. SafEtch® rids surfaces of embedded oil, grease, excess mortar, efflorescence and dirt. On cementitious surfaces, the cleaner dissolves a small amount of the surface while leaving the aggregates untouched. This mild “etch” creates greater surface area for more complete penetration and effectiveness of any protective treatment. It is ideal for projects where traditional acidic cleaners are not allowed. Non-fuming SafEtch® contains no hydrochloric or other traditional inorganic acids and is safe for use on and around most metal surfaces. It is up to 70 percent more effective than citric and glycolic acids, and 50 percent more effective than phosphoric acid.

# Typical Technical Data

FORM: Clear purple liquid, pleasant odor

SPECIFIC GRAVITY: 1.110

pH: less than 1.0 at 1 to 3 dilution

WEIGHT/GALLON: 9.24 pounds

FLASH POINT: greater than 200 degrees Fahrenheit (greater than 93 degrees Celsius)

FREEZE POINT: negative 22 degrees Fahrenheit (negative 30 degrees Celsius)

SHELF LIFE: 3 years in tightly sealed, unopened container

# Limitations

* Not suitable for polished or unpolished marble, limestone or travertine.
* May cause discoloration and corrosion on certain types of metals. ALWAYS TEST.
* May damage exposed low-E glass treatments; acrylic and polycarbonate sheet glazing; and glazing with surface-applied reflective, metallic or other synthetic coatings and films. Modern soft coat or hard coat low-E glass is not intended to be on the external face of the glass and should not be exposed to or adversely affected by proper cleaning. Always test for adverse effects prior to overall application. If testing is not feasible or indicates adverse effects, such substrates must be protected.

Specifier Note: Paragraphs below are for PART 3 EXECUTION, Installation.

# Application

Before applying, read “Preparation” and “Safety Information” sections in the Manufacturer’s Product Data Sheet for application instructions.

SafEtch® may be diluted with up to three parts clean water, depending on the nature and severity of soiling. Always pour water into empty bucket first, then carefully add concentrate. Refer to test panel results for recommended dilution for intended use.

**Exterior Application**

1. Use clean water to thoroughly prewet surface to be cleaned. On vertical surfaces, work from the bottom to the top.
2. Apply liberally using low-pressure spray (50 psi max), roller or densely filled (tampico) masonry washing brush. Do not apply with high-pressure spray. Do not atomize.
3. Let the cleaning solution dwell 3 to 5 minutes. Reapply. Do not let cleaning solution "dry into" the surface. If solution starts to dry, reapply.
4. Rinse the treated area thoroughly with clean water using high-pressure spray. On vertical surfaces, work from the bottom to the top, keeping lower surfaces rinsed clean and free of cleaner residue.

SPECIFIER NOTE: Light scrubbing of the surface improves cleaning results especially where high pressure rinsing equipment is not available.

SPECIFIER NOTE: The best combination of rinsing pressure and water volume is provided by masonry washing equipment generating 400 to 1000 psi with a water flow rate of 6 to 8 gallons per minute delivered through a 15 to 45 degree fan spray tip. Equipment should be adjustable to reduce water flow rate and rinsing pressure as required for controlled cleaning of more sensitive surfaces. See also “Equipment” section of the Product Data Sheet. Rinse with clean water, covering each section of the surface with a concentrated stream of water.

**Interior Application**

Proper ventilation is necessary. Follow exterior application procedures. If pressure-rinsing is not possible, use a sponge or soft-fibered brush to rinse thoroughly with clean water.

# Cleanup

Clean tools and equipment with fresh water.