

Eco-Etch Pro Concrete Etcher Installation Guide



STEP 01

PLANNING/TEST

Proper planning will save you time, money, and help you achieve a successful project.

1. Measure the project area to estimate the total amount of material that may be required for the project.
2. Inspect the surface for substrate damage and surface barriers such as coatings, sealers, concrete curing compounds, oils, grime, etc., or other foreign elements that may prohibit the etching material to react properly with the calcium and lime.
3. If contaminants need to be removed prior to application, measure surface area to obtain appropriate amount of material.
4. Perform a small test in an inconspicuous area to determine reactivity and optimum dwell time. Confirming this step prior to full application will save materials and time.
5. Exterior projects should be planned away from direct sunlight if during summer months. Using shade or mobile popup tents will extend wet time needed.
6. Plan to cover and prewet any plants or delicate vegetation that may be exposed during the application or rinse process.

Be sure to schedule around weather conditions and recommended temperature range.

STEP 02

TOOLS/MATERIALS

Mechanical Tool Options:

Garden-Type Pump Sprayer, Low Speed Floor Buffer w/30 - 60 grit screens and black pads, Pressure Washer, Commercial Wet/Dry Vacuum with Squeegee Attachment, Floor Fans.

Manual Tool Options:

Deck brush, buckets, water, plastic sheeting, painters tape.

Miscellaneous Items:

1. **Surface Preparation Materials:**
 - a) **Stripping:** EcoFast 100 HD Liquid or 100G GEL Paint Stripper.
 - b) **Degreasing:** EcoFast 500 Cleaner & Degreaser.

STEP 03

SURFACE PREP

Prior to application, if you are aware that there is a barrier on the concrete or masonry surface being etched, it must be removed completely. If you are unsure perform a pre-test.

PRE-TEST: Always perform a test patch to determine sufficient dwell time (5-15 minutes), etch level (minimum CSP-1), and substrate compatibility. If foaming does not occur, a barrier or lack of calcium and lime is present. Barriers must be removed prior to etching. The etching process must achieve a foam reaction and create small micro-pits with open pores. **DO NOT PROCEED UNLESS FOAMING REACTION OCCURS.** Repeat the process on smooth areas where pores are not visible or water does not readily absorb.

STEP 04

APPLICATION

Perform your project in small sections as determined by manpower, temperature, and environmental conditions to avoid premature drying of the material. Cover and/or pre-wet vegetation if runoff or accidental overspray is expected. Apply full strength liberally with a pump sprayer. Immediately scrub the material evenly with a hard bristle brush or floor machine with brush attachment, black stripping pad and/or 36 to 60-grit sanding disc. The material must remain wet during the dwell time, generally between 5 to 15 minutes depending on the density of the concrete and amount of surface profiling desired. Eco-Etch may also be used for dust mitigation and resin disc lubrication if diamond grinding in order to prolong pad life while enhancing etching of dense concrete. Eco-Etch Pro may be diluted up to 3:1 with water when used for light cleaning or minimal etching.

EFFLORESCENCE CLEANING: Use a pump sprayer to distribute the material or dip a hard bristle brush into a bucket of solution onto the efflorescence that you are trying to remove. If the surface is colored with a stain or integrally colored, you should test for color stability in an inconspicuous area. The etch may be diluted with water up to 3:1 to weaken the reaction if the color is aging.

NEUTRALIZE & CLEAN: Power wash or scrub with water to neutralize and wet vacuum to remove concrete dust residue. Repeat if necessary.

