CURE & SEAL TROUBLESHOOTING FAQ

COMMON ISSUES WITH CURE & SEAL PRODUCTS

EUCLID CHEMICAL

SOLVENT WASH APPLICATION

The solvent most commonly used to remedy concrete cure & seal appearance issues is **Euco Solvent**, available from Euclid Chemical distributors. Follow all safety and personal protection precautions on it's Safety Data Sheet. Best results are achieved when a wash is done on a cool, overcast day (not in hot, direct sunlight). Before the solvent wash, sweep all dirt, debris, and loose sealer off the concrete to be treated. Pour the solvent into a metal or solvent-resistant paint tray and use a short-nap, solvent resistant roller to apply the xylene to the areas of sealer to be treated at a coverage rate of approximately 200 ft^2/gallon (4.9 m^2/liter). Use steady, even strokes to apply the solvent. Don't over-roll back and forth, as this can cause bubbling. A few minutes after application, the solvent will re-wet the sealer, turning it back to its original liquid form. At that point, any excess sealer can be pulled or wiped off the concrete with a squeegee or rags. Typically, no additional coats of product should be applied since most problems are initially caused by over-application of the sealer.

COMMON ISSUES WITH CURING & SEALING APPLICATION AND APPEARANCE

When concrete cure & seals don't perform properly, or their finished appearance is not what was expected, the cause can often be traced back to a handful of common reasons: **poor product selection, the product was applied too thick, was applied in non-ideal conditions, or was applied in too many coats**. All of these circumstances can be avoided by contacting the product's manufacturer or sales representative before purchase to ensure you're selecting the best sealer for your project. Always carefully read and follow the instructions on the sealer's Technical Data Sheet (TDS) before use.

ISSUE: CURE & SEAL HAS BUBBLED

Cause: Product was applied too heavily, or in hot weather/direct sun.

Prevention: Carefully follow manufacturer's recommended coverage rate and apply during the coolest part of the day when concrete is not in direct sun. Two thin coats should be applied rather than one heavy coat.

Solution: Perform a solvent wash (see sidebar) and allow to dry. Re-application is not recommended.

ISSUE: SOLVENT BASED CURE & SEAL TURNED WHITE

Cause: Product was applied too heavily or there are too many coats of sealer on the concrete, and moisture trapped underneath the sealer has caused it to lose adhesion from the concrete.

Prevention: Follow manufacturer's recommended coverage rate; do not re-seal concrete until previous coat(s) have worn away or have been stripped off.

Solution: Solvent wash and allow to dry. Re-application is not recommended.

ISSUE: CURE & SEAL IS PEELING OR FLAKING OFF

Cause: Product was applied too heavily, there are too many coats of sealer on the concrete, or the concrete was not prepared properly before application. Since concrete sealers last 1-3 years, some peeling and flaking should be expected as the product wears away, especially in areas of high traffic or direct sunlight.

Prevention: Follow manufacturer's recommended coverage rate and preparation methods; do not re-seal concrete until previous coat(s) have worn away.

Solution: Pressure wash or scrub concrete to remove any loose material. Allow to dry completely. Perform a solvent wash to bring remaining product back to the surface and reestablish the seal. If solvent wash does not provide the gloss and seal desired, apply a *light* coat of sealer after solvent wash has dried.

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ISSUE: WATER BASED CURE & SEAL IS MILKY-WHITE OR POWDERY

Cause: Product was applied in low temperature or high humidity conditions, where air flow is low (basement, closed garage, etc.), or product was applied too heavily.

Prevention: Follow manufacturer's recommended coverage rate and application conditions.

Solution: The sealer may need to be completely removed with a chemical stripper or by mechanical means. Reapply in proper conditions.

ISSUE: CONCRETE SHOWS STREAKS, ROLLER MARKS, OR DRIPS AFTER CURE & SEAL IS APPLIED

Cause: Careless or sloppy application. Product may have been applied unevenly without keeping a "wet edge", or wrong type of sprayer or spray tip was used.

Prevention: Carefully follow application instructions on product's technical data sheet.

Solution: Perform a solvent wash to redistribute heavy areas of product.

ISSUE: WATER SPOTS ON SEALED CONCRETE

Cause: Hard water from landscape sprinklers dries on concrete and leaves minerals behind upon drying.

Prevention: Avoid sprinkling on concrete as much as possible.

Solution: Squeegee concrete dry in areas where hard water dwells on concrete.

ISSUE: CURE & SEAL IS STAINED FROM OIL, LEAVES, TIRES, FERTILIZER, ETC.

Cause: Cure & seals and penetrating sealers will not prevent stains.

Prevention: Prevent oil and other chemical drips from cars and equipment. Sweep tree debris and fertilizer granules from concrete as often as possible.

Solution: Use a commercial concrete cleaner or stain remover to clean stained concrete. Sealer product may require reapplication if cleaner or stain removal process removes the sealer as well.

ISSUE: CONCRETE IS DARK AND BLOTCHY AFTER CURE & SEAL IS APPLIED

Cause: Uneven application or wrong product choice.

Prevention: Follow the application methods on the product technical data sheet.

Solution: Perform a solvent wash to redistribute heavy areas of product. If appearance is not acceptable after solvent wash, allow product to wear away over time, or remove and re-apply appropriate product. Only use sealers that are specifically listed as acceptable for sealing existing, cured concrete.

ISSUE: CARPETS, MATS, OR GARAGE DOOR WEATHERSTRIPPING IS STICKING TO CONCRETE THAT HAS A CURE & SEAL APPLIED ON ITS SURFACE

Cause: Rubber additives in mats, carpet backing, or weatherstripping may chemically react with concrete sealers, resulting in the sealer becoming sticky.

Prevention: Don't place rubber backed mats or carpet on sealed concrete. Don't seal area of concrete where rubber items will be in contact.

Solution: Remove sources of rubber/cure and seal direct contact.

ISSUE: SEALER IS SHOWING SCRATCHES OR SCUFF MARKS FROM TRAFFIC OR FURNITURE

Cause: Concrete cure and seal products have moderate durability and should be expected to wear under abrasive traffic or moving furniture. An epoxy or urethane coating system should be considered for interior applications where more durability is desired.

Prevention: A concrete or tile floor wax/polish can be applied over sealed concrete to improve scratch and scuff resistance. Use non-scuff pads on furniture legs to prevent scratches.

Solution: Scuffed or scratched sealer can be repaired by lightly wiping the area with solvent and applying a LIGHT coat of sealer over the area.

This information is supplied as a general guide to solving concrete Cure & Seal issues. Each situation is different, and results may vary. Whatever remediation method is chosen should be performed on a small test section before addressing the entire area to determine if the results are acceptable.

For more than 100 years, The Euclid Chemical Company has served as a leading supplier to the concrete and masonry industry, offering a full line of engineered concrete admixture and construction products marketed under the EUCO brand name. These products include concrete admixtures, block and masonry additives, curing and sealing compounds, epoxy adhesives, floor and wall coatings, structural grouts for columns, equipment and machinery, joint fillers and repair products. The Euclid Chemical Company strives to bring innovative technologies and products to the concrete market with industry-leading customer service.