



THE ORIGINAL COLOR CHIPS WATERBORNE EPOXY FLOOR COATING APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Prior to painting your floor: PERFORM A MOISTURE TEST If you sometimes see tiny crystals or white powder on your floor, this is moisture migrating through the concrete, which will often cause peel up of any kind of coating you apply. **TO PERFORM A MOISTURE TEST:** put a rubber mat on the floor or tape down a 3 by 3 ft (or so) sheet of plastic. Wait overnight. If water collects between it and the floor there is a moisture problem and any floor paint will probably not cure/dry properly. If the Water Test fails, please contact us regarding further options.

PERFORM THE SEALER TEST If your concrete has been treated with some sort of cement sealer no epoxy will stick to it. **TO PERFORM THE SEALER TEST:** pour water on the cement. It should soak into the cement in a reasonable time. If it beads up or just sits there for a long time, the concrete has been sealed or could be grease-or-oil contaminated. The Etch N' Clean solution will not cut through a sealer. The floor must be grinded or shot blasted to cut through the sealer.

PATCHING: Patching of pits and cracks is an optional step. Patch all pits and cracks by utilizing a concrete patching compound *prior* to using the Etch 'N Clean solution. Use a self-leveling sealant if you wish to partially fill in expansion joints, etc (optional – not recommended filling in completely). Fillers must dry overnight before etching.

SURFACE PREPARATION: Concrete Surfaces: No matter how new OR clean the concrete is, it will need a rough textured surface in order to achieve maximum epoxy adhesion. The rougher the better. Etching opens up the pores of the concrete to allow the epoxy to sink into the floor, thus allowing the base coat to adhere securely. Roughen slick concrete as well remove any oil, grease, and dirt by utilizing *The Original Color Chips Etch n' Clean Solution*. The Etch 'n Clean has the ability to provide both the cleaning and the profiling (roughening the surface) in one operation. After diluting etching solution with water (*1 gallon of etch to 1 gallon of water*). Pour uniformly onto surface and scrub into the pours of the concrete with a stiff bristle broom. Wait 7-10 minutes. (no longer) Triple rinse **thoroughly** with water (power washing is ideal) and allow to dry a minimum of 8 hours. Remove loose aggregate by sweeping and vacuuming. All surfaces must be sound, dry, clean and free of oil, grease, dirt, mildew, form release agents, curing compounds, efflorescence, loose and flaking paint and other foreign substances prior to applying basecoat. See reverse for tutorial on etching successfully. **Applying epoxy on Wood** – Wood surfaces must be double-coated. Prime with basecoat epoxy reduced one-half pint per gallon with water or a waterborne epoxy primer. (this will soak into the wood thus creating a bonding agent for your second-layer of basecoat.)

Previously Painted Surfaces: The waterborne components of this product generally allow use over most old coatings. Old coatings should be tested for lifting. If they lift, remove them. Wash to remove contaminants. Rinse thoroughly with water and allow to dry. Dull glossy areas by light sanding. Remove sanding dust. Remove loose paint. If no lifting, lightly sand the surface and clean with TSP (Trisodium phosphate) or substitute.

BASECOAT MIXING INSTRUCTIONS: Slowly add Basecoat Part B to Basecoat Part A in a 1:1 ratio. (entire half-gallon to half-gallon). Stir thoroughly and scrape sides of can to ensure thorough blending. Allow the mixed material to stand 45 minutes at temperatures below 70°F (21°C) before use. Above 70°F (21°C) allow 30 minutes induction time. Always restir before use. Mixed material is usable for six to eight hours. Do not thin with solvents use water if thinning is necessary. Do not add flow-control materials.

APPLYING YOUR BASECOAT/CHIPS: Do not apply over wet surfaces or under very humid conditions where condensation or fog could settle on the coating during the cure process. The epoxy can be applied by brush, roll or spray. For roller application, use clean medium nap synthetic roller (new rollers must be free of loose fibers). A good quality 1/2 inch nap roller is recommended). Brushing is best reserved for small areas of “cutting in”. Do not apply when surface or air temperature is below 50°F (10°C).

Start Painting: After material is thoroughly mixed, Start Painting in the corner furthest away from the exit of the room. Use a brush to cut in along the walls, use a roller to roll material on floor surfaces away from the wall. After painting approximately 6 feet from the starting point you should begin to apply the chips. Chips are applied by tossing them upward toward the ceiling allowing them to float down into the wet basecoat. (we recommend a “basketball-shooter” style dispersion) Continue painting approximately 6 foot wide sections and tossing chips until entire floor is complete. Note: be careful not to drop chips in handfuls directly down onto floor, once chips are placed they cannot be moved. **Coverage:** Apply at 220-250 sq. ft./gal. or 5.0-7.0 mils wet (2.0-3.0 mils dry) on smooth, surfaces. **Dry Time:** Application temperature range is 60°-95°F. At 77°F (25°C) dries to touch in two hours and to recoat overnight. **Non-skid Application:** Surfaces coated with high-gloss epoxy may become slippery when wet. For additional slip resistance in areas of pedestrian traffic, use the Non-Skid Additive. While applying your color chips, sprinkle into the **wet** basecoat or use in clearcoat by rolling forward, sprinkling, then backrolling over once again.. Be sure **not** to apply non-skid in a high-concentration. Sprinkle at 1 can per 500 square feet, using the easy sprinkle can.

TOPCOAT APPLICATION: Once your ready to apply topcoat (waiting overnight for the basecoat to efficiently cure), mix Part A and Part B together (equals one gallon). Refer to the basecoat mixing and application instructions for the Topcoat. It will be the same procedures. Be sure to roll one **even** coat of Crystal Clear topcoat to entire surface to be coated (we recommend a good 3/8” nap roller). Material will go on as a milky white (may even look like white paint) and dry Crystal Clear. Smooth out any visible clumps of clear coat. **If you come to the end of your floor and you still have clearcoat left over do not use the mixed material to add thickness to the layer you just put down. Discard unused material (if mixed).** Applying Clearcoat overtop of itself without waiting for the first layer to cure will cause curing problems. If you do decide to double coat the clear top coat, please allow at the **minimum** of 14 hours for the first layer to cure before attempting a second coat. (heavy or full broadcasts of chips often calls for a double layer of clear coat, though the more chips you use the more skid resistance you give your floor)

Dry Time: Dries to light foot traffic on concrete floors in 24-48 hours. You can move heavy items on it in 36-48 hours. **Full cure for vehicle traffic in seven days.** Low temperature, high humidity, thick films or poor ventilation will increase these times. Lack of ventilation and/or the use of portable fuel burning heaters that produce exhaust gases, during application and initial stages of curing, may cause yellowing to occur. **Clean-up:** Clean immediately after use with warm, soapy water. Rinse pumps and hoses with xylene after cleaning.

HELPFUL HINTS: Be sure to apply the basecoat material at 220-250 square feet per gallon, Clearcoat will cover much more. Be sure to have enough chips to do entire surface. (1 lb/bag per 250 square feet for Light sprinkle, 2 bags per 250 square feet for medium sprinkle, etc) Using spike shoes (or golf cleats) you can sprinkle the chips with much more accuracy because you can walk over the wet epoxy and disperse. When applying topcoat walk on previously applied chip/basecoat with clean shoes or socks only, any dirt or debris tracked on to chip/ basecoat will be sealed in by application of clear topcoat. Once you mix the product (basecoat OR clearcoat) you only have 6 hours to work with it before it hardens. **We usually recommend a three day process: Day 1: etch and clean the surface Day 2: apply your base coat and chips, and Day 3 roll on your top coat.**