

CreteStain Datasheet

February 2026

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A reactive mixture containing special chemicals which reacts with the OPC (Ordinary Portland Cement) to colour the surface.

Technical Data

Type	Acid-based
Colour	See www.cemcrete.co.za
Working time after mix	N/A
Application temperature (ambient)	5°C to 30°C
Substrate temperature	5°C to 30°C
pH scale	Acidic
Abrasive resistance	Same as substrate it is applied to
Density	1.1kg / litre
Protection during application	Sun and wind barriers
Safety	Refer to MSDS

Purpose

To stain and colour cured concrete or any OPC (Ordinary Portland Cement) based substrate.

Applications

Suitable for staining concrete floors, water features, off-shutter concrete or any previously untreated OPC based article (including Cemcrete cement-based products).

Advantages

- Economical application (can be diluted with water).
- Permanent solution which cannot peel or flake.
- Provides interesting colour variations.
- Easy application.

Limitations

- Only effective when in direct contact with cement or concrete.
- Does not react with clay bricks unless overcoated with cement plaster.
- Acid staining on self-levelling floors may yield unpredictable results due to varying cements, additives, and flow agents. Testing is required to confirm suitability.
- Concrete that's highly modified with cement extenders can also affect the staining ability. Testing is required to confirm suitability.
- Cretestain is a chemically reactive mixture, so the final colour is dependant on the dilution thereof, the number of coats applied, and the time left on the surface to react. It also depends on the type and quantity of cement used in the substrate, as well as the age of the cement.

Specimen finish

A trial area should be treated on-site for the architect's approval and to serve as a specimen to which the contractor should work.

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Site Work

Storage

Can be stored for 12 months from date of invoice. If the product is older than 12 months it is recommended that you re-activate it by adding 100ml of hydrochloric acid per litre.

Note: Occasional crystallisation may occur due to temperature fluctuations. This does not affect the product's performance or its ability to stain concrete. If crystallisation is observed, decant the product into a separate container and proceed with application as per the datasheet instructions.

Surface Preparation

Surfaces should not have been previously painted and new concrete must have been cured for at least 14 days (for even better results allow the concrete to cure for 28 days before the **CreteStain** application). They should be firm and free from loose material, any form of organic growth whatsoever, oil or grease. Extremely dense, steel or power floated floors may require light sanding using 240 grit Abranet sand paper (available from Cemcrete) in a circular motion, or a grinding disc, prior to the application of **CreteStain**, to ensure the substrate is penetrable. Alternatively, the surface can be pre-dampened prior to doing a light acid wash comprising of one part hydrochloric acid diluted with 5 parts water. Always put the water in the bucket first and then slowly add the acid to the water (see protection measures under the safety warning section below). Pour the solution onto the dampened floor and agitate using a stiff nylon broom / brush. Neutralize by mixing sodium bicarbonate with water at a 1 to 10 dilution.

Mixing

CreteStain can be diluted with water if lighter shading is required. We do not recommend diluting Black or Lichen. The depth of colour can be achieved through multiple applications of diluted **CreteStain**, or by using undiluted **CreteStain**. It is advisable to work from a lighter shade first and add colour until the desired shade is achieved.

Application

It is recommended to lightly wet the substrate before applying **CreteStain**. Apply **CreteStain** with an acid-resistant paintbrush, spray canister, etc. ensuring that adjacent areas are protected from over-spray and spills. Avoid splashes, puddles and dry joints by maintaining a wet edge and applying continuously between architectural features. Different techniques produce different results. Always do a sample panel first. Equipment used should be acid resistant. Vertical applications are to be started at top commencing downwards, whilst avoiding excessive run-down. All reacted residue must be removed by flushing thoroughly with water after a minimum of 4 hours. Subsequent treatments may be necessary to achieve the desired depth of colour or special effects.

Once all coats are completed and allowed to react for 4 hours, do a neutralizing rinse using Sodium Bicarbonate diluted 1:10 with water. Use a soft bristled broom to wash the surface. Use a wet vacuum or squeegee mop to remove water and allow to dry. Ensure all acid residue is removed.

Please note:

- **CreteStain** Burnt Amber is purple in colour upon application, and can take up to 3 days for the true Burnt Amber colour to appear once applied.
- Where stencilling is being done **CreteStain** can be brought to a gel-like consistency by adding CreteStain Gel. Ensure the consistency is such that it does not run.
- **CreteStain** Blue is not UV stable and will fade in direct sunlight.

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Sealing

The moisture in the substrate must be less than 5% prior to sealing. Ensure that the surface is free of any form of laitance or dust etc. before sealing with a suitable sealer fit-for-purpose in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Sealers are best applied to a cool surface in multiple thin coats until an even sheen is achieved. Allow sufficient drying time between coats (product specific in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions). Cemcrete manufactures a wide range of sealers designed for a specific purpose, dry film thickness and durability (example: for use in wet areas, and so on). Please contact your local representative for the best solution to meet your needs.

Maximum hardness of the protective sealer is normally achieved between 72 hours to 10 days after application depending on the choice of sealer. The sealer in wet areas such as kitchens and bathrooms should be allowed to cure properly prior to exposing them to water splash back or chemical spattering from substances such as soap suds and toothpaste etc. to avoid staining or wet back.

Coverage

Brush application - approximately 8m² / litre / coat, depending on suction and texture of surface. A sample area should be done to confirm colour and coverage.

Packaging

Supplied in 1 and 5 litre containers. 20 litre containers available on a made to order basis.

Safety Warning

- Contains dilute hydrochloric acid
- Treat with caution
- Store away from heat and direct sunlight
- Safety clothing should be used

Manufacturer's Warranty

Cemcrete warrants that the products manufactured by it shall be free from material defects and will be consistent with its normal high quality. Should any of the products be proven defective, the liability to Cemcrete shall be limited to replacement of the product ex-factory. Cemcrete makes no warranty as to merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose and this warranty is in lieu of all other warranties expressed or implied. The user shall determine the suitability of the product for his intended use and assume all risks and liability in connection therewith.

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