Instructions for Performing a Solvent Wash

EUCLID CHEMICAL

The solvent most commonly used to remedy concrete cure and seal appearance issues is xylene (sometimes labeled xylol), which is available at home improvement stores in the paint department, where paint strippers are sold. FOLLOW ALL SAFETY AND PERSONAL PROTECTION PRECAUTIONS ON THE CONTAINER, as xylene is a flammable material. Best results are achieved when the wash is done on a cool, overcast day (never in hot, direct sunlight).

Before the solvent wash, sweep, scrub, or power wash 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). Work in small areas and work quickly, as the xylene evaporates quickly. Almost immediately, the solvent will re-wet the sealer, turning it back to its original liquid form.

When the sealer is completely re-wetted with the xylene, use a stiff natural bristle brush to scrub the wet sealer around the area. This will help pull up all the sealer that may have soaked into the pores and depressions in the concrete surface.

At this point, excess sealer can be pulled or wiped off the concrete with a squeegee, the roller, or clean rags. Power washing is also an effective way to fully remove the sealer. When removing sealer via power washing, be sure to mask off any and all grass, shrubs, cars, houses, etc., as the sealer/solvent mixture will kill vegetation, and adhere to cars, houses, etc. Keeping the area wet with xylene, use the roller to evenly redistribute the remaining sealer thinly across the area.

When the entire area to be washed is complete, allow the concrete to dry. No additional coats of sealer should be applied since most problems are caused by over-application of the sealer initially.

19215 Redwood Road • Cleveland, OH 44110 • 800-321-7628