

Surface Sealants

Applications and Considerations

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Here you see the benefits of applying a color enhancing sealing product, comparing the driveway beforehand in the lower corner. For example, different sealants may be applied to a pool deck and a driveway at the same house. The driveway might look best with a color enhancing product, and as a parking spot for potentially leaky vehicles, it may demand a tough surface film.

bare feet might point to a non-color enhancing product. Further, today's popular salt water pools can be corrosive to decking, creating the need for water repellency to protect the structural longevity of the pavement.

Whatever the application, an appropriate sealant can help decorative hardscape materials look their best and keep them looking great for years to come.



Hardscape material is a rapidly growing category that includes concrete, natural stone, clay brick and other choices that combine to form the foundation for inviting spaces. Many of these time-tested options are being used in new ways with the rise of decorative and/or permeable paving and ongoing innovations in veneer products.

While many of today's hardscape materials are excellent options for their environmental qualities and their ease of installation, it is their aesthetic beauty that is frequently their most important characteristic. Once installed however, these decorative materials are exposed to weather and staining from use. Pavements are especially susceptible to the abuse of nature and traffic. The application of a sealant protects and can even enhance the aesthetic qualities that originally made the materials attractive choices for installation.

abound and clear information can be tough to find. While sealant technology continues to evolve and environmental regulations force formulation changes, sealants can be roughly broken down into a few key categories: Film-forming vs. non film-forming; Color enhancing (wet look) vs. non color enhancing (dry look); Solvent based vs. water based.

Because each category brings its own trades in features and benefits with regard to aesthetics, protective qualities and application procedures, understanding this framework greatly simplifies product selection. For example, different sealants may be applied to a pool deck and a driveway at the same house. The driveway might look best with a color enhancing product. As a parking spot for potentially leaky vehicles, it may demand a tough surface film.

The pool deck on the other hand is a better candidate for a non film-forming sealant that has no impact on slip and skid resistance. Concerns about hot pavement and

Clear concrete sealer and other types

While concrete is one of the most useful materials used today in buildings, it is vulnerable and should be protected. Concrete sealants can increase the strength, usefulness and the longevity of your concrete work for years to come.

The main weakness in concrete lies in the fact that it is so porous. It may not be a sponge, but it does absorb liquids in small amounts on the surface. This liquid can damage it in a number of ways. If it is a solvent (like maybe acid or turpentine) it will slowly wear away the concrete. You'll see pits spring up on the surface, but those can be patched. Underneath, though, the concrete is permanently weakened.

Water Issues

Water also causes issues. If the water is allowed to freeze, the molecules will expand and begin to push against the walls of these tiny holes. The result of this is that the holes become micro cracks and begin to expand and spread across the surface of the concrete. These micro cracks can continue to expand and become visible cracks that will be unsightly and overall weaken your concrete. **LCN**

Breaking Down Sealants

Selecting the right sealant for the job is often an exercise in confusion; options

Surebond's formulation of the sealers allows for the products to be applied immediately after paver installation without trapping efflorescence. That would come in the form of crystalline deposits on the face of a stone or mineral.

