



How to Repair “Whitening” or “Blushing” of Solvent-Based Acrylic Sealer

Necessary Supplies:

- Short nap, solvent resistant roller cover & long handle extension
- Solvent resistant metal roller pan
- 2” solvent resistant brush
- Xylene compatible hand pump sprayer
- Natural bristle broom
- Xylene (1 gallon per 300 ft² of concrete surface)

There are two main reasons why recently applied sealer may appear white in color:

1. Whitening is a phenomenon that occurs several days after concrete has been sealed. It is characterized by excellent aesthetic qualities immediately following the application of a sealer, followed by the appearance of frosted or whitened areas several days later.

Concrete is a very porous material, similar in structure to a rigid sponge. There is always water vapor passing upward through concrete, drawn by the warmth of solar energy. As a result, whitening is generally most pronounced in areas of greatest sun exposure and less evident in shaded areas.

Acrylic sealers are designed to “breathe”, allowing water vapor to pass through but not allowing liquid water to absorb back into the concrete. But if a sealer is applied too heavily or frequently, that breathability is compromised allowing water vapor to condense beneath the sealer, causing it to disbond from the concrete surface. Those disbonded areas appear white.

2. Blushing is a milky appearance within the sealer itself. Blushing within solvent-based sealers is commonly the result of moisture trapped within the sealer as it cures.

Correction Process:

This is **not** a method for removing sealer from concrete. It is intended solely to rectify deficient aesthetics associated with solvent-based sealer that is whitening, blushing or disbonding. Do not attempt this process to repair water-based products.

Step 1

Apply Xylene to the problem area at a rate of 300 ft² per gallon. Work in manageable sections that can be reached with a handled roller. Allow the Xylene to dwell for 1 to 2 minutes until the sealer has softened.

Step 2

Using the roller and handle extension, dampen the roller cover in Xylene and work the sealer in a back and forth manner similar to painting. Roll evenly and consistently, being careful not to leave a random roller pattern or entrap air in the sealer. If the sealer has been significantly over applied, it may be necessary to use a natural broom to gently scrub the acrylic. Be careful not to disrupt the accent colors in stamped concrete. Use a Xylene dampened roller to remove broom marks.

Step 3

Working in manageable and reachable sections, continue this process over the entire repair area. A 2” solvent resistant paint brush can be used to remove excess sealer from deep recesses and joints.

Step 4

Allow the Xylene to evaporate and the sealer to dry. It may be necessary to repeat steps 1 through 3 if the acrylic buildup is excessive.

Tech Tips:

- Work in manageable size areas that you can reach with a long handled roller.
- This method works best on a cool, overcast day with no wind.
- An uneven film of acrylic will leave darker areas where acrylic is over-applied. A thin even film or coating is preferred.