

KUERT CONCRETE DRIVEWAY PROTECTION PROGRAM



The best way to protect your concrete investment for years to come is to cure it immediately after pouring and then sealing it 30 days later. The concrete curing process allows time for the chemical reaction of cement and water to produce a hard, strong surface. When the water evaporates, the chemical reaction stops. For that reason the first 7 days of concrete curing are critical to the outcome, yet the entire curing process continues for 28+ days. Curing concrete serves two main purposes: 1) to retain moisture in freshly placed concrete so that it can continue to gain strength as it hardens, and 2) to delay shrinkage due to rapid drying until the concrete is strong enough to resist cracking from shrinkage. The most common method used to cure concrete is to apply a liquid membrane curing compound to newly finished concrete.

Sealing concrete will help prolong the life of the concrete by decreasing moisture penetration, preventing damage from the use of chemicals and de-icing salts, and can also enhance its appearance. Concrete sealers act as a final layer of protection against damage from the elements, such as contamination from de-icing chemicals, whether applied at home or brought onto the concrete by vehicle tires or salt trucks; contamination from lawn fertilizers allowed to sit on the concrete' and stress caused by freeze/thaw cycles. Sealers generally fall into two categories — penetrating sealers and film forming sealers. We recommend the use of a penetrating sealer to provide you the best insurance toward protecting your investment.

Following is our recommendation for the proper treatment of your concrete investment to provide the best opportunity for a prolonged life and maximum protection against the elements and freeze/thaw conditions, especially winter weather conditions in Northern Indiana and Southwestern Michigan.

New Concrete:

Curing

- ▶ Apply curing compound immediately after finishing concrete and when hard enough to walk on without leaving footprints in the surface.
- ▶ Apply product with hand sprayer.
- ▶ **Recommended Products:**
 - ASI (1315 VOC) Achro Seal by TK Products
 - Diamond Clear 350 by Euclid Chemical
 - Or any acrylic solvent-based cure & seal that, at a minimum, meets ASTM 309
- ▶ *Recommended for all types of new exterior concrete.*

Sealing

- ▶ Concrete surface must be cleaned well to ensure proper sealer performance.
- ▶ Wait 30 days after the concrete is poured and apply sealer to concrete surface.
- ▶ Apply the sealer with a hand sprayer and back roll to ensure even coverage of the product.
- ▶ **Recommended Product:**
Final Seal by TK Products
- ▶ *Recommended for all types of new exterior concrete but highly recommended for all exterior concrete that may come into contact with de-icing chemicals or other harmful chemicals.*
- ▶ *For maximum protection, reapply sealer application every 5-7 years.*

Old (Existing) Concrete:

- ▶ Concrete surface must be cleaned well to ensure proper sealer performance.
- ▶ Apply the sealer with hand sprayer and then back roll to ensure even coverage of the product.
- ▶ **Recommended Product:**
Final Seal by TK Products
- ▶ *Recommended for all types of new exterior concrete but highly recommended for all exterior concrete that may come into contact with de-icing chemicals or other harmful chemicals.*
- ▶ *For maximum protection, reapply sealer application every 5-7 years.*

Surface Preparation

Before sealing concrete, old or new, the surface must be cleaned well to ensure proper sealer performance. Removal of dirt, oil, and other contaminants is necessary — a high-pressure wash is recommended.

Care and Maintenance

Sealed concrete finishes should be cleaned and rinsed routinely. Certain chemicals, oils, and tree leaves which are allowed to sit on a concrete surface may stain or deteriorate the sealer and the concrete finish. Early clean up of spills and other contamination will reduce the degree of staining and prolong sealer life.

To find out more about these products or to arrange sealing service, contact Kuert Supply Center at: 574.239.0058.