

TOP-CAST®

Top-Surface Retarder

Product Description

Top-Cast® is a water-based, top-surface retarder which does not require covering with plastic for protection. It is available in 11 depths of etch, each one color and number coded for safety and convenience.

Product Uses

Ideal for poured-in-place flatwork and the top surface of precast panels. The wide selection of grades available provides a comprehensive range of effects, from a simulated light acid wash or sand blast finish up to full exposure of 1 ¼ in. (32 mm) aggregate.

Performance

Each product grade creates a unique degree of reaction to produce the desired effect on the surface mortar. The retarding chemicals diffuse into the paste during the first hours of curing and slow down the cement hydration reaction. During the next 16+ hours of curing the bulk concrete hardens, except where the cement matrix has been retarded. The retarded surface can then be removed by water or pressurized water, revealing the aggregate in the concrete mix.

Application Information

Always prepare small test panels to determine the most suitable grade to obtain the desired depth of etch. When pouring test samples, always simulate job site conditions as well as mix designs to be used on the project to establish the proper grade selection and procedures.

Application:

In preparation for pouring of concrete, protect all curbs, borders, adjacent stones, pavers, etc. with a coat of PIERI® FACE-OFF™ surface protectant. Allow coating to dry before pouring concrete. Pour concrete and float or trowel finish.

Shake well before application. Apply Top-Cast surface retarder uniformly to the wet concrete after the initial bleed water rises to the surface. Spray with a low-pressure sprayer (plastic preferred) until the surface has a complete hiding coat. Do not apply too sparingly. Use water for clean up. Once dry (i.e. 1–2 hours after application), Top-Cast surface retarder provides excellent protection against intermittent rain.

Removal:

The retarded cement matrix is normally washed away the next day, using high-pressure water.

When using certain mix designs, especially in warmer temperatures, it may be necessary to remove the retarded matrix the same day for best results, particularly when using the lightest etches.

Product Advantages

- Comprehensive range of etch depths
- Excellent depth of etch control
- Color coded products
- Heavily pigmented for ease of application
- Excellent coverage rates
- Solvent free, odorless
- Heat resistance up to 150°F (65°C)



Coverage Rates:

Top-Cast surface retarder will cover approximately 200–300 ft²/gal (4.9–7.4 m²/L).

Packaging & Handling

Top-Cast surface retarder is available in 5 gal (19 L) and 55 gal (208 L) plastic containers.

Storage

Top-Cast surface retarder has a shelf life of one year from date of manufacture, in closed original container.

All precautions defined on the SDS (Safety Data Sheet) for Top-Cast must be followed.

Top-Cast® Grade Guide

(Based on 6 Sack Mix*)

Stone Size	Grade
Acid Etch	03 Light Violet
Sand Blast	05 Powder Blue Violet
Up to ¼ in. Up to 6.5 mm	15 Yellow
¼ to ¼ in. 3.0 to 6.5 mm	25 Beige
¼ to ¾ in. 3.0 to 9.5 mm	50 Canary Green
¼ to ¾ in. 3.0 to 9.5 mm	75 Blue
¾ to ½ in. 9.5 to 13 mm	100 Gray
¾ to ¾ in. 13 to 16 mm	125 Pink
¾ to ¾ in. 13 to 16 mm	150 Green
¾ to 1 in. 16 to 25 mm	200 Salmon
1 to 1½ in. 25 to 38 mm	250 Orange

*564 lbs/yd³ or 355 kg/m³ of cement

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