



# westcoat™

## PREPARATION TIPS

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- How well a coating bonds to another surface will depend on the surface being properly prepared. The porous and more clean (or roughed up) a surface is, will have the greatest effect on coating adhesion.
- This is especially true when working with coatings that are going to be built-up on top to of the surface as opposed to low viscosity (thin) sealers and stains that soak in and leave little, if any, film on the surface. The ideal surface should be roughed up to feel like 30, 60 sandpaper.
- Shot-blasting, pressure washing, grinding or scarifying are the most common techniques to rough-up the surface, which creates a profile for the coating to bond. If the concrete has a broom finish, a 3000-5000 psi pressure washer may suffice. This is the most cost efficient way to etch and clean the surface.
- Bead-blasters or shot-blasters are the best for creating a consistent profile, dust-free. Small beads or “shot” are blasted against the surface with great force and re-circulated leaving a sand blasted effect. This equipment can be rented, but is usually done by professionals.
- Using a 7 inch double row diamond cup on a hand held grinder is one of the fastest ways to rough up a small area. This procedure can be very dusty unless you use a dust collector or vacuum attachment. A Zec disc is another option for removing paint or abrading a coating. However, you may still need to follow with a pressure washer to completely open the pores and to rinse completely.
- To pressure wash or water blast the surface, uniformly blast at the rate of 200-300 ft per hour with the tip approximately 2 inch from the concrete. This technique should slightly etch most concrete and should be adequate for broom finish concrete outside. Sand attachments are available to wet blast. This works fine, but as with sand blasting there is a lot of clean up afterwards.
- After you rinse, check to see if the surface feels like sandpaper. If it is still smooth, repeat the entire process until the entire surface is rough like sandpaper and not slippery.
- Existing paints or coatings on floors may require a little more muscle to remove the coating. Tools such as scrabblers, scarifiers or grinders have metal or carbide teeth to remove coatings and concrete. This is fine if you are planning a coating thick enough to hide the marks created by this type of equipment. Check with your local equipment rental yards for this type of equipment. Look for one with a vacuum or dust collector to minimize clean up.
- In most applications you want to find a machine that scratches the concrete just enough to allow penetration of the coating you are applying. You may still need to follow with a pressure washer and even chemicals to completely open the pores of the surface.
- These tips are generally used by the industry, however, we can not guarantee the outcome of your preparation work. Through experience you will learn the best techniques, and completing a test area before you begin is recommended. Hire or consult a professional if you have any questions.



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