Maintenance of a Concrete Surface Treated with the Ashford Formula

Concrete surfaces that have been treated with the Ashford Formula undergo remarkable internal changes because of unique chemical reactions that occur within the surface of the concrete. Following a period of up to twelve months, the concrete will develop a pleasing sheen, become much harder, denser, dust-proof and sealed. While the sealing and the sheen evolve over a period of several months, the hardening and dust proofing will complete much sooner.

Additionally, not only will the surface of the concrete be easy to clean and maintain but by doing so on a regular basis, it will actually enhance the sheen and seal properties of the floor. The implementation of sound floor care and maintenance procedures will optimize the performance of the concrete.

A successful floor program involves good housekeeping practices. In order to obtain the expected results, it is essential that routine maintenance requirements be established and carried out. A concrete floor treated with the Ashford Formula that is initially scrubbed every day with aggressive brushes, plenty of down pressure, and large volumes of water and detergent will be enhanced significantly.

NOTE: **ALWAYS** use *"Caution, Wet Floor"* signs.

This type of cleaning will accomplish three things:

1) Stains will become lighter and less discernible over time. As The Ashford Formula reacts with the concrete, it will force the contaminants out of the floor surface only if the floor is regularly cleaned.

2) The water used while cleaning the concrete's surface will actually accelerate the sealing properties of the Ashford Formula. This is possible because water hastens the reaction between the Ashford Formula and the cement in the concrete.

3) The abrasion generated by scrubbing the floor surface will induce a luster that not only will improve with time, but also will actually create a uniform appearance.

4) The following considerations will also have a bearing on the success of a maintenance pro gram:

⇒ When the Ashford Formula is applied to a smooth, steel troweled concrete surface a permanent marble like sheen develops as the treated floor seals and becomes densified. This condition makes waxing or coating the floor surface with other materials unnecessary.

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⇒ Use a neutral to high pH [(1)] detergent void of sulfates and hydroxides to clean the floor. (Acidic cleaners or sweeping compounds will dull the appearance of the surface). Curecrete Chemical Company, Inc. manufactures such a product by the name of *Crete-Clean*™ that has a pH of 10 to 11 depending on its dilution.

⇒ It is recommended that spills be cleaned up quickly. The concrete will resist contamination and moisture penetration of most liquids. Following the sealing period, however, substances that contain acid concentrates can permanently etch the surface of the floor. Some food stains such as mustard or grape juice can also result in a residual stain.

⇒ For best results, a regular floor maintenance program using automatic scrubbing equipment capable of 300 or more pounds (130Kg) of downward pressure should be implemented.

⇒ The development of the sheen can be accelerated on concrete surfaces that have been treated with the Ashford Formula for a minimum of thirty days. This can be accomplished by burnishing the floor with a high-speed burnisher equipped with an abrasive black stripping pad. Propane driven burnishers with an RPM of 1800-3500 perform best while electrically driven machines do not have adequate downward pressure irrespective of the rpm's.

Step 1. Work the surface by moving the machine side-to-side while travelling forward to create a wax-like sheen. Do not allow the machine to remain stationary while operating.

Step 2. To increase the intensity of the sheen, repeat Step 1 utilizing a red pad.

This form of burnishing will not hurt any areas of the concrete surface that have been treated appropriately with The Ashford Formula. However, if there are any untreated or soft areas, implementing an aggressive scrubbing program of this type will damage the floor.

⇒ It is highly recommended that a good oil emulsifier be kept on hand to clean oily and fatty spills.

⇒ High forklift traffic often leaves tire marks that are difficult to remove through regular maintenance. A concrete surface treated with the Ashford Formula will alleviate this problem once the concrete is fully densified. Removing tire marks from a concrete surface can be achieved through aggressive cleaning with a D-Limonene based cleaner [(2)].

[(1)] Litmus test should read eight or higher

[(2)] This type of cleaner applies to citrus-based detergent degreasers that contain natural terpine ($C_{10}H_{16}$) based solvents and high concentrations of natural extract of orange peels.

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