



How to Apply DCI Concrete Dye

DCI Concrete Dye must be applied with either an aerosol sprayer or an acetone sprayer. The product cannot be applied with a brush, roller or similar applicator. DCI Concrete Dye is particularly useful when attempting to stain areas that cannot easily be colored with concrete acid stain. DCI Concrete Dye is an excellent choice for slabs with exposed aggregate or areas that have been previously treated with muriatic acid, excessively power-washed or a waterproofing agent.



NOTICE

Standard pump-up deck and fence sprayers cannot be used to spray DCI Concrete Dye. An acetone sprayer must be used for application of this product. 3-gallon or similar large acetone sprayers should never be carried by the pump handle while spraying. Most sprayers are bottom discharge units and any sediment will go directly into the strainers causing blockages. The sprayer should be carried by the strap at a 30 to 45 degree angle. Carefully read the acetone sprayer instruction booklet before proceeding with any application.

What is Concrete Dye?

DCI Concrete Dye is an acetone-based topical colorant. The acetone mixes with the coloring agent and bonds to the surface of the concrete. Concrete dye provides a permanent color when properly sealed and maintained with a high quality concrete sealer. When properly sealed, the dye produces a bright, variegated surface color unique to this process. DCI Concrete Dye can also be used in conjunction with concrete acid stain to enhance color and texture. Concrete dye is ideal for commercial jobs where turnaround time is a factor as well as for stenciling and vertical projects where fast drying time and ease of application is a necessity.

Surface Preparation

Surface preparation is one of the most important steps of the dyeing process. The concrete must be free of debris, dirt and oils, sealers, adhesives or anything that might prevent the color from bonding with your surface.

Often, surfaces inside an existing house will have dry wall mud, paint, wood stains, tile adhesives, carpet adhesives, grease, pet stains or other contaminants on the concrete. Areas where debris remains on the surface may prevent the dye from adhering properly leaving color imperfections on the floor. Use Bean-e-Do, for removing carpet or tile adhesive and Soy Gel Professional Paint Stripper to remove epoxy, sealers, varnish or paint stains. For the complete application instructions and more information on surface preparation products, visit www.directcolors.com. Soap and water or an orange degreaser can be used to remove stubborn dirt or similar stains from your slab. Use an organic degreaser at a medium concentration, scrub the surface thoroughly with a nylon brush and rinse with clear water. For an interior project where water run-off is not possible, use a shop vacuum, mop and/or squeegee to contain the water and aid in drying. The floor should be completely dry before beginning the coloring process. DCI Concrete Dye will cover up some minor imperfections, but to insure a consistent color, you will want your concrete as clean as possible. DCI Concrete Dye performs best on hand-troweled or relatively smooth surfaces.



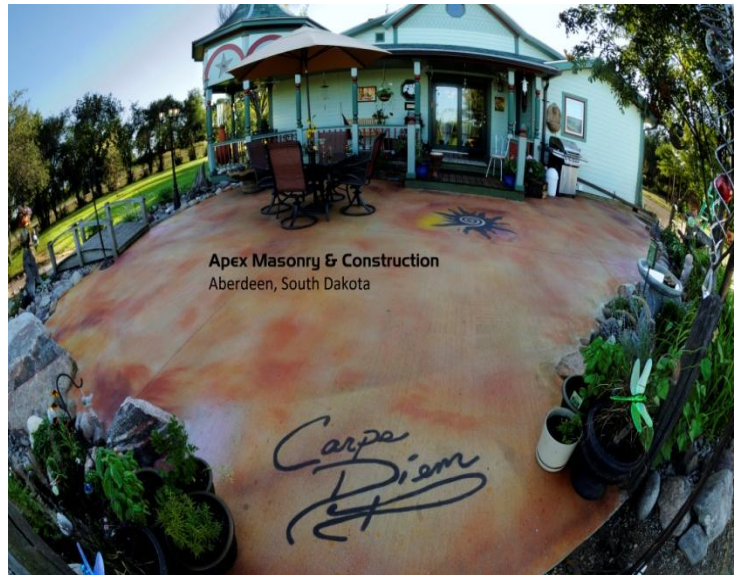
For best results, apply a thin layer of sealer to the surface prior to applying the concrete dye. Because the dye particles are finely milled, most surfaces, especially porous and exterior concrete, should be sealed first before applying the dye.



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Mixing the Dye

Due to the transportation restrictions associated with shipping acetone, Direct Colors does not ship the DCI Concrete Dye in liquid form. For every gallon of dye purchased, the customer will need to buy a gallon of acetone from their local hardware store. Acetone is readily available in most communities. Empty your container of dye into the acetone, and shake for 30 seconds. **DO NOT USE ANY TYPE OF ELECTRICAL MIXER.** Acetone is highly flammable. Shaking the mixture in the gallon container will thoroughly mix the solution. Allow the mixture to sit for approximately 30 minutes to 1 hour before applying. Pour into the acetone sprayer and apply. DCI Concrete Dye must be agitated regularly while applying to keep the particles in suspension. Direct Colors offers a 5oz. aerosol sprayer for samples or accent applications, a 1.5 liter sprayer for jobs 200-500 sq. ft. and a 3-gallon sprayer for larger projects.



Applying the Dye

Safety while applying dye is important. Remember to use goggles and gloves while working with the concrete dye. The appearance of the finished product is very much influenced by the manner in which the dye is applied. Shake the mixture in the sprayer frequently to ensure an even, consistent color during the application. The dye should be sprayed going right to left, then north to south. Try not to spray on too thick. The dye will dry almost instantly. The more layers you apply the darker the color will become. Apply as thin a coat as possible to ensure color quality and appearance. Generally, 3-4 coats of dye should be sufficient for most applications, but additional dye can be applied to make the surface darker. Do not let the dye pool up in any area, so mop up these spots with a disposable rag. Allow product to dry thoroughly. Carefully use a dry buffer, soft cloth, or dust mop to remove excess colorant or residue on the surface before sealing.

Sealing the Surface

After the surface has been cleaned, begin the sealing process. *Remove shoes and work in sock feet on dyed surfaces.* Sprayable sealers are preferred for use with DCI Concrete Dye. Both Sprayable Satin Finish and AC1315 High Gloss Sealers can be sprayed from a pump-up deck sprayer or HPLV sprayer. DCI Water-based concrete sealer using a 3/8" in. nap roller, Floor Trim Pad, Floor Coater, HPLV sprayer or pump-up sprayer. If applying with a pump-up sprayer, backroll with a 3/8 in. or less nap roller for even coats. Use caution in applying solvent-based sealers, particularly during indoor applications. Wear a mask while applying the sealer and make certain the area is well ventilated to the outside. Consider using a water-based product in basements applications. Second sealer coats can be applied with an applicator if preferred. See the complete application instructions for all our concrete sealers online at www.directcolors.com.



TEMPERATURE WARNING

Water-based sealers and all DCI waxes must be applied to surfaces at temperatures greater than 60F. Indoor floors can be heated to the correct temperature but caution and careful attention should be given during the application and drying time for both products. In hot, dry weather conditions, apply sealers to outdoor concrete either late in the evening or early in the morning when surface temperatures are at their lowest.

Maintenance

Sealers applied to outdoor concrete should be re-applied every 2 to 3 years, depending on traffic and weathering. Indoor floors sealed with an acrylic sealer should be waxed with a Concrete Floor Wax and Polish routinely. Spot sealing or waxing can be utilized in the event of uneven wearing. For a waxed surface, re-apply wax every 3-6 months depending on traffic.