

SoyCrete Concrete Stain

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. What is the soy ester dispersion technology and what are its major benefits?** Soy methyl esters are derived from an esterification of soybean oil derived from the soybean plant. The soy ester that we use is actually further derived from a waste stream by-product of vitamin E production. This long proven bio-based natural ingredient replaces conventional petroleum based solvents typically required for high solvency and great penetration characteristics. The ability to transform this chemistry into a stable and water miscible resin for coatings applications is revolutionary. The major benefits of this technology include; petroleum reduction, renewable resource content, recycled content, recyclable material, 100% biodegradable, non-hazardous, non-corrosive, no reportables and many more.
- 2. How much bio-based and recycled content does SoyCrete contain?** Over 60%.
- 3. Does SoyCrete meet USGBC LEED and other green certification criteria?** Yes, SoyCrete contains more green building attributes than any other stain product. Others may have low or no VOC for a low emitting material, but that's not good enough for us. We not only meet the low emitting materials criteria, we have other sustainable considerations such as; renewable resource, recycled content, innovation in design, building re-use, sustainable site development and others.
- 4. What is the coverage rate and why would there be a difference?** The average coverage may vary between 400 sq.ft./gal to over 600 sq.ft./gal. This range is typically 2-3 times more than conventional stain products. A coverage range all depends on the porosity of the substrate and the application method used. A highly porous substrate will want to absorb more material. A denser substrate will absorb less. So on a highly porous substrate, you will want to better control the amount of material being applied by selecting the applicable installation method and tools.
- 5. What are the main differences between SoyCrete and Acid Stains?** In addition to the above superior environmental features, SoyCrete is non-reactive, thus providing full control with better penetration, color, and artistic design flexibility. The installer can easily adjust, add, or change color effects without waiting 4-6 hours to see the final color. SoyCrete does not require the neutralization process and hazardous waste disposal of the acid residue. Overall, installers save up to 60% in labor time, while decreasing material costs, and lowering health hazard issues as well. When repair is necessary, SoyCrete provides more flexibility to blend and create matching elements that further extends the life even when the unexpected occurs.
- 6. What are the main differences between SoyCrete and Polymer Based Stains?** In addition to the above superior environmental features, SoyCrete's chemistry absorbs into the substrate and bonds integrally to create a more durable stain system versus creating a topical film that is more prone to premature degradation from traffic and UV exposure.
- 7. What are the necessary steps required to install SoyCrete?** Please obtain the most current installation guide for more complete installation details. These are the basic steps to follow: 1) Porosity Test: Spray installation areas lightly with water. If the water absorbs within seconds without beading or puddling, you are ready to proceed to the next step. If water does not absorb, you must determine if you have a sealer, coating, curing compound that needs to be removed, or you may simply have a very dense hard troweled surface that can be opened up easily with Eco-Etch Pro. 2) Eco-Etch Test: If Eco-Etch foams upon contact use this product to etch and clean the surface for optimum porosity, cleaning and appearance prior to staining. 3) SoyCrete Test: Apply your desired color in a test area that has been properly prepared. Work the material into the surface eliminating all topical residue. If the stain does not wipe off easily after approximately 30 minutes and it has met your color expectation, proceed with the project.
- 8. How do you determine sufficient porosity?** A simple porosity test is conducted by spraying a mist of water on the surface. If it absorbs within 10 seconds, you have a porous surface. However, just because you have a porous surface doesn't mean you can apply unlimited amounts of material. You will reach a saturation point, so your application method, color selection, sealer options, etc., must be considered to determine optimum porosity for your project. If you require deeper tones, or simply want maximum penetration for extended durability, you need to open the pores to accommodate that desired level. We recommend always using Eco-Etch Pro to provide a quick, safe and sure way to increase porosity levels. You have to clean the surface anyway, so simply clean and etch in one step and take away some of the guesswork.
- 9. How do you know if you reached a saturation point when applying SoyCrete?** You will easily notice when the stain no longer wants to absorb as you apply the stain. The stain will puddle or is clearly creating a film on top of the

surface even as you try to work it into the substrate. You must be sure to remove all topical material before proceeding to your next step if you reached this level of saturation.

- 10. How long should it take to dry and what is the full curing period?** When applied properly and in normal environmental conditions, SoyCrete should be dry to touch within 30 minutes to 1 hour. If excessive material was allowed to remain topical on the surface, this would be the only cause for it not to dry in a timely manner. The area may be walked on with protective shoe covers as soon as it is dry. Allow a minimum of 12 hours for a return to service and 5-7 days for full cure. The time up to full cure means the system may be susceptible to excessive moisture and chemicals. Dry mop cleaning is recommended during the cure period.
- 11. Will temperature affect the installation?** All drying and curing schedules are based at a baseline temperature of 72 degrees F @ 50% relative humidity. The warmer and dryer, the faster the dry times. The colder or more humid the slower the dry times. Surface temperatures should be below 95 degrees or above 40 degrees for best results. The hotter the surface the faster SoyCrete will dry before it has a chance to penetrate. The colder the surface, the more slowly SoyCrete will penetrate. Test surface temperatures with an infrared thermometer if conditions are in this range to properly adjust installation procedures. Cool surface temperatures with water mist and use pop-up tents or covers for shading if applicable. Store material in a temperature controlled environment or even slightly cool. Choose to perform work at the coolest part of the day during the summer season for exterior work. Warm surface temperatures with portable heaters/blowers. Store material in a temperature controlled environment and even slightly warm the material prior to use if necessary.
- 12. Does SoyCrete need to be sealed?** It is recommended to add protection to your newly stained surface to provide the appropriate level of repellency against dirt, water, stains, chemicals, abrasion, etc. Understanding the application, appearance, and type of environment the newly stained floor or wall will be subjected to will help you determine the most applicable finish sealer or topcoat system. Acri-Soy is our penetrating sealer that leaves a natural non-topical film finish designed to fill the pores to help repel water, oil, and other contaminants without changing the surface coefficient of friction. Poly-Soy is our penetrating topcoat finish that is available in a satin or gloss sheen. It is designed to provide enhanced repellency with a sacrificial thin film barrier with sheen options. Eco-Tuff High Traffic is our ultimate topcoat finish system for optimum traffic, chemical, and abrasion resistance with a high luster finish. Finish options are generally installed after 4-6 hours dry time of SoyCrete.
- 13. What can you stain with SoyCrete?** It is virtually unlimited as long as the substrate is porous. Most common applications are: concrete floors, tilt-up panels, fiber cement siding, garage floors, pool decks, block walls, plaster, stucco, faux finishing over white paint or primer, concrete countertops, micro-topping, and many more.
- 14. What are the color options and will they vary?** SoyCrete is available in 16 standard pre-tinted colors and are available in a tint base with individual pre-measured colorant packs that are added by the user. The colorant pack option is available at select stocking dealer locations. The colorant packs are pre-measured with a standard color of choice for each one gallon of tint base. Each pack will contain a different amount of colorant as determined by the amount required for a particular standard color. Actual colors on concrete may vary when compared to display samples or color charts, as colors are dependent upon the actual concrete color, concrete aggregate, porosity, texture, etc. The colorant pack option provides even more color control by adding less pigment to lighten the standard color or add more pigment to darken the standard color. Mixing different colorant packs will also allow the end user to customize colors as well.
- 15. What is the best way to dispense the colorant packs into the tint base?** Add a little clean water to the colorant pack and gently stir mix all colorant while making sure to scrape all material from the edges. Empty entire contents into your tint base, then mix the SoyCrete container. If using less than a one pack, more than one pack, or mixing different colorant packs you may want to measure the amount of each for future color formula reference. Never exceed 10 oz of colorant per each one gallon of tint base.
- 16. Can anyone install SoyCrete?** Like any construction or artistic project, it is all dependent on the skill level, tools of the installer and the complexity of the project. A professionally trained installer with all applicable tools, equipment, knowledge and artistic vision will surely provide professional results. However, those that wish to install a decorative stained substrate; SoyCrete is the most forgiving system available as long as you follow the recommendations then test, test, test prior to full installation. Replicate the successful test procedures throughout the project for a desirable and long lasting stain system. For professional installers, we conduct regular authorized installation workshops at our corporate office in Phoenix, AZ and branch office in Whittier, CA. We also conduct dealer sponsored workshops throughout the country and on-site training programs are also offered. Visit www.ecoprocote.com for current scheduled events or contact us for your training requests.