



## ***STARDEK's Nature Stain Application Guidelines***

### **Guidelines:**

These steps are basic guidelines for the successful application of STARDEK's Nature Stain. It is recognized that each job offers unique challenges and often application techniques must be adapted to accommodate the substrate or the aesthetic qualities desired. Although following these guidelines should obtain maximum results, a test or sample area is always recommended. If additional information is needed, contact STARDEK's Technical Staff for Assistance.

### **Uses:**

STARDEK's Nature Stain is recommended for interior or exterior surfaces. Nature Stain is specifically formulated to be applied over porous concrete or surfaces treated using STARDEK's Cement Mixes including Grout Mix, Texture Mix, Overlay Mix, and Micro-Topping. Nature Stain is a concrete stain or dye that requires a Clear Sealer. This product is compatible with most Sealers such as Acrylics, Epoxies, and Urethanes. With the appropriate Sealer protection, Nature Stain can be used in both commercial and residential flooring.

### **Surface Preparation:**

Ultimately, the successful application of any coating material is a direct result of thorough surface preparation. Nature Stain is formulated using the highest quality color pigments, binders, and surfactants to ensure long lasting properties. This product should only be applied to a porous cement surface or STARDEK Cement Mixes.

**For bare concrete**, as with any coating system, all foreign materials such as grease, oil, wax, caulk, or other contaminants must first be removed from the surface. Once the

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surface is clean, the surface must be etched using a diluted solution of Muriatic Acid (see STARDEK Training Manual for Etching Directions). Once the acid is “spent” or neutralized by the concrete, rinse thoroughly using a pressure washer. It is absolutely imperative to wash or rinse away all debris torn loose from the concrete by the etching process. If this byproduct of etching is not washed away, it will act as a barrier and impede adhesion. If working indoors where acid etching and pressure washing are not possible, call STARDEK’s Technical Staff for alternative preparation methods.

**For previously sealed or coated surfaces** a more aggressive prep is required. There are different methods for these type surfaces depending on the job budget and time constraints.

It is recommended that all previous coatings be ground off in order to make sure the Nature Stain reacts with the bare concrete. This can be a time consuming process and often damages the concrete top finish. If after grinding the surface is not marred and scratched, you can apply Nature Stain to the surface. Again, you must remove all dust residue from the surface. This dust will act as a barrier and impede adhesion. When grinding off an old coating or Sealer, always be prepared to apply a coat of STARDEK Grout Mix, Texture Mix, or Micro-Topping to repair the slab and make sure you have a smooth finished surface.

### **Area Preparation:**

Before application of Nature Stain, be sure to mask off all adjacent areas such as floors, doors, or walls that need to be protected from overspray. Spending the time to make sure the area is properly “masked off” will save a great deal of time and frustration later in the job process!!

### **Dilution:**

Nature Stain is only offered in a concentrate. Standard dilution is 1 part Nature Stain concentrate to 4 parts distilled, de-ionized, or reverse osmosis water. Although alternate dilutions will have different finish affects, standard dilution as mentioned above is what is recommended. Obviously with increased dilution the binders in Nature Stain are less effective and may impact adhesion and longevity.

### **Application Techniques:**

All Nature Stain colors are compatible with each other. Colors may be mixed or sprayed simultaneously to achieve many affects. There are many ways to apply STARDEK’s Nature Stain, the most popular are:

***Spraying*** is by far the most popular method of applying Nature Stain. The Stain can be applied using a “pump-up” sprayer. Other methods of spraying include an airless sprayer

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or a HVLP (High Volume Low Pressure) sprayer. Using these sprayers with varying pressure settings can give you a mottling appearance which is often desirable.

***Brushing or Sea Sponge*** is another popular technique. Brushing or “Sponging” gives you a great deal of control allowing you to be precise in the finish desired. This method is also very effective when installing intricate designs and logos. STARDEK has available custom logos and Flatoo’s used for many design and custom work (call for more details).

***Highlights*** are often used for a mottled appearance and to achieve spectacular affects often desired. Again, these highlights can be applied using the methods mentioned above.

### **Clean Up:**

Nature Stain is a water-based, water-soluble material and therefore all tools can be cleaned with soap and water.

### **Sealer Application:**

The longevity and durability of a Nature Stain Floor is a direct result of the Clear Sealer applied to protect the surface. Once COMPLETELY DRY (normally 2 to 6 hours depending on weather or environmental conditions), apply two coats of the desired Sealer to the surface. Many Sealers can be used (call for more details) but recommended Sealers include STARDEK II Sealer, Epoxies, and Durothane.

### **Cure Time:**

The cure time needed is the normal cure time for the Sealer applied. Most Sealers require a minimum of 48 hours for heavy commercial traffic. Full “cure” is normally 30 days.

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