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CONVERTING EXISTING CONCRETE FLOORS TO A ROLLER SKATING SURFACE

CLEANING

TESTING

To determine which preparation method to use, test several 2' x 2' sections in different areas of the floor. This will help determine which of the following cleaning or stripping systems is best for your floor. Use Muriatic Acid solutions for testing as described below in the **ETCHING** section of these instructions on page 3.

GREASE AND OIL

Using strong detergent and abrasive stripping pads, scrub the surface with an automatic floor scrubber or rotary floor cleaner. Clean surface in small sections being certain to rinse and remove the dirty water before it has a chance to dry. A wet/dry vacuum cleaner should be used to remove rinse water from the surface.

WAX

Remove all water-based wax or finish with an industrial strength wax strippers following manufacturer's instructions.

SEALER OR CURING COMPOUNDS

For curing compounds and sealers that cannot be removed with water-based strippers, the following procedures apply:

- Apply solvent-based stripper such as Multi-Clean Solvent Blend No.1 with a lamb's wool applicator, covering an area of 10' to 20' at a rate of 150 sq. ft. per gallon.
- Keep surface wet with this stripper and allow product to stand 15 to 20 minutes.
- Mix a powerful detergent such as Multi-Clean Butyl Plus 1 part detergent to 7 parts hot water.
- Flood the solvent treated area with detergent solution and scrub with a floor machine equipped with a poly-grit brush or black stripping pad.
- Pick up the residue with a wet/dry vacuum or automatic scrubber.
- Check area for spots and residue that may appear.
- With etching solution, test area in the manner described above. If fizzing occurs, then you have broken through the sealer or compound and may continue stripping the floor.

VARNISH OR PAINT

- Remove all water based wax or finish.
- Apply a Varnish Remover to a 10' x 20' area with a lamb's wool applicator. Let stand and work 15 minutes.
- Scrub stripper with a ploy grit brush or wire brush.
- Spread sawdust or oil absorbent material on the stripper solution.
- Sweep up the residue and dispose of properly.
- Scrub the floor with a powerful industrial strength detergent solution.
- Rinse with plenty of water.
- Test area with etching solution. Repeat stripping if little or no "fizzing" occurs.

EPOXIES

If you suspect that epoxy paint has been used as a floor coating, contact your Roll-On and Super Base Supplier. They will see to it that you are properly advised as to its removal.

ETCHING

IMPORTANT NOTE

All concrete surfaces must be properly and thoroughly etched with a **MURIATIC ACID** solution (often the label says, “30% Baume”) or other concrete etching product before coating. Muriatic Acid is available in most hardware stores and is used commercially to clean swimming pools and stainless steel containers. Work with this product wearing rubber boots, rubber gloves and good protective eyewear. The common neutralizer for this product is white vinegar. Please consult labels on the product for proper protective measures and first-aid recommendations.

MIXING

Mix 1 part muriatic acid to 6 parts water in a large **PLASTIC** container or garbage can. **DO NOT** use metal or galvanized containers for this process.

TESTING

Apply a few drops of Muriatic acid or other etching solution to a few test areas throughout the skating surface. If the mixture “fizzes” the surface is clear of sealers or other coatings and the surface is ready to etch. The acid solutions should react the same in areas tested. If no “fizzing” occurs in one or more of the test areas, then a curing compound, sealer, varnish, or a wash coat is present and must be removed before the etching process can be started.

ETCHING – BROOM FINISH CONCRETE

Acid-etch the cured slab until it feels like 80 grit sand paper. If the broom finish already has that feel to it, you need only acid-etch the slab once.

Etch in 10’ x 10’ sections per gallon using a common plastic garden sprinkling can to apply the solution. This is the best way to control the spread of the solution. Allow the solution to “fizz” for about 10 to 15 minutes. During this time, scrub with a floor machine equipped with a wire brush or use a stiff bristled parking lot push broom to work the solution into the concrete. Using a 5-gallon plastic paint pail, flood the 10’ x 10’ area with 5 gallons of clear water, also working this in for a minute or two with the parking lot broom or scrubber. Remove the water in the 10’ x 10’ area with a water vacuum and move on to the next section.

ETCHING – SMOOTH FINISH CONCRETE

It may be necessary to etch smooth concrete two times to obtain a proper etch. A proper etch should have the feel of 80 grit sand paper. The first etch should be done with a mixture of 1 part Muriatic acid to 4 parts water. The second etch should use the standard Muriatic solution of 1 part Muriatic acid and 6 parts water.

Etch in 10' x 10' sections per gallon using a common plastic garden sprinkling can to apply the solution. This is the best way to control the spread of the solution. Allow the solution to “fizz” for about 10 to 15 minutes. During this time, scrub with a floor machine equipped with a wire brush or use a stiff bristled parking lot push broom to work the solution into the concrete. Using a 5-gallon plastic paint pale, flood the 10' x 10' area with 5 gallons of clear water, also working this in for a minute or two with the parking lot broom or scrubber. Remove the water in the 10' x 10' area with a water vacuum and move on to the next section.

Once the concrete slab is etched, it must dry thoroughly before applying your skate floor coating.

TEST FOR ELIMINATION OF MOISTURE IN THE SLAB

36 hours after completing the etching process, test for moisture by placing a few 6' X 6' plastic drop cloths (large plastic garbage can liners work well too) around the floor. Weight the corners of the plastic sheets down so they won't move with sudden air currents.

After 24 hours, lift a drop cloth. If the concrete is moist, the area under the plastic sheeting will be darker than the surrounding area. The surface is not ready for coating.

Return the drop cloth to its original position and test it again in a few hours. If the area under the drop cloth is dry, the surface is ready to coat. Once all test areas have dried, the skating surface is ready for coating.

If you are satisfied that the floor is “ROUGH, CLEAN, and CURED”, then refer to Roll-On Floor System's Publication regarding application of Super Base Two Part Epoxy.