

Surface Preparation for Powercoat Application

All surfaces to be coated must be sound, clean and absorbent. Concrete must be free of laitance, efflorescence, dirt, dust, oil, grease, rust and other contaminants. Check for absorbency by sprinkling water droplets on the concrete; droplets should absorb in and darken the concrete immediately. If the water beads up or stays on top of the concrete, then other preparation (etch & neutralize) is required, in addition to thorough cleaning and degreasing. Procedures below are to be used as a guide only. For detailed instructions, consult individual product data sheets.

1. Scrape or brush the surface to remove any loose or flaking material.
2. Remove existing floor waxes, curing compounds, sealers, paints, adhesives, other coatings, or heavy oil stains with **Certi-Vex Concrete Stripper** or **StarSeal EF Stripper**. For light oil stains use **Certi-Vex Super Degreaser & Cleaner**. For epoxies and urethanes, it is helpful to score the surface of the coating.
 - a. Apply stripper, wait typically fifteen to twenty minutes until stripper forms a “gel” with sealer, then scrub. Keep the surface wet with stripper; do not allow stripper to dry. Follow instruction on individual product data sheet.
 - b. Then scrape off the gel, or scrub and pressure wash off, or use a walk-behind scrubber to remove.
 - c. Rinse thoroughly. A thorough cleaning and degreasing will be needed.
 - d. A second application may be necessary for thick or stubborn coatings.
3. Conduct water absorbency test.
 - a. If not immediately absorbed, use **Certi-Vex Etch & Efflorescence Remover**.
 - b. Apply **Certi-Vex Neutralizing Rinse**.
 - c. Rinse well with water to flush away any salts or residues.
4. Perform thorough cleaning, degreasing, and rinsing.
5. Allow concrete to dry. Damp concrete is fine, but no standing puddles or running water.
6. Confirm that temperatures (material, surface, and ambient/air) are within specified limits. No frost, snow, or ice! Download Vexcon’s Cold Weather or Hot Weather Application Guides if needed.
7. Apply Powercoat at recommended coverage rates; or apply **Powercoat Primer** as directed, followed by proper drying and application of two thin **Powercoat Epoxy** topcoats as specified. Do not over-apply material; use thin coats at directed coverage rates. Do not overwork material.
8. Allow proper drying between coats to prevent entrapment of solvent or water.
9. Complete the epoxy application as directed on product data sheets.

Please contact Vexcon for our Epoxy Checklist, our Powercoat Training Presentation, or for any information or samples you may require.

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