

SYSTEMEXTMstamp



Instructions



MORTEX

Concrete Answers for Better Living



Instructions



Necessary Tools

Mortex

- 2 Stamp Pads
- Gauge Rake
- Pattern Blade

Other

- Mixing Drill
- Construction Sprayer
- Tamp
- Trowel

Optional Tools

- Filament Tape
- Stencil
- Acrylic or Acid Stain
- Mortex Oxide Color

Coverage

Step 1 - Bond: Covers 300-350 ft² per gal

Area ÷ 300 = Gal

Step 2 - Stamp: Covers 40-45 ft² per 50 lb bag

Area ÷ 40 = Bags

Step 3 - Clear Seal: Covers 125-150 ft² per gal

Area ÷ 125 = Gal

Release Agent: Covers 300 ft² per gal

Area ÷ 350 = Gal

Surface Requirements

- The minimum surface preparation required is a muratic acid wash.
- Apply only to a clean, sound concrete surface that is preferably 28 days old.
- Do not apply when the surface temperature is below 50° F or above 105° F.
- These materials are extremely tenacious. Mask off all areas that are not being coated.
- Decide in advance what color scheme you want. Also, decide the type of pattern you are having if any.

Apply the Systex Bonding Agent.

- Follow the instructions on the bucket for applying the bonder.
- Do not mix Bonder with Stamp material

If a straight lined design is desired, now is the time to lay it out.

- Filament tape can be placed on the surface after the bonding agent has dried to develop your patterns in the topping.
- Always incorporate concrete joints and cracks into the pattern (as joints).

Apply Systex Stamp Material

- Mask off a starting and stopping place, such as a joint. Do not stop in a random manner. Place a strip of tape along the edges as a tear strip so that the masking does not get removed prematurely.
- Holes and low spots should be filled with a thick stamping material and allowed to harden before applying the 1/8 inch layer of stamp material.
- Use a Mortex gauge rake to maintain an even thickness.
- The Systex Stamp material must be fluid enough that it will spread easily without tearing when gauge raked. The stamp material is of the proper consistency when the tracks left by the wheels slowly fill in and disappear.
- To maintain a constant thickness, spread topping past the edges onto the plastic masking.
- Immediately use a trowel or a Mortex pattern blade to erase any gauge rake wheel marks and level any ridges in the material. The stamp material does not have to be troweled slick. You can use a wet sponge or a rag to clean the trowel but, do not use water on the surface because it can cause white blotches.
- Rinse tools immediately or place underwater to stop the stamping material from drying and being almost impossible to remove.
- Do not apply the Systex Stamp material to a surface that has any release agent on it.

The Systex Stamp material is ready to be imprinted when you can press down firmly with your finger (15 lbs pressure), make an impression and none of the material adheres to your finger. If an area is drying faster than its surroundings, spray release agent on just that area only to retard setting.

Apply Liquid Release Agent over the Systex Stamp material.

- Spray the liquid release onto the Systex Stamp material until it is visibly wet. Spraying the liquid release is the only method of application.
- Make sure to apply immediately before stamping.

To obtain rich colorful details, make a thin mixture of liquid release agent and color and apply this mixture randomly to the stamp pad. Spray the pad with release agent and immediately stamp the material.

- Apply liquid release and color to the pad each time it is used.
- You will need an absolute minimum of two stamp pads.
- Use only Mortex's low profile feather stamp pads. Concrete stamps definitely don't work.
- Liquid release will help slow the set of the stamping material.
- Do not use water-based colors just before stamping.
- Should you get the release agent on areas other than the Systex Stamp material, it will have to dry completely before proceeding in that area.
- Dry color can be applied from salt or cheese shakers and/or from a sisal brush, before applying liquid release agent.
- A stencil can be placed on top of the Systex Stamp material right before placing the stamp pad. The stencil will leave an imprint that can be used as a guide for cutting a pattern.
- Place the stamp pad on the material without sliding or dragging it on the surface.
- Overlap stamp pads onto previously stamped material or other stamp pads.
- Step onto the pad before you begin tamping, being very careful not to skid the stamp.
- Start by tamping lightly, lift the corner of the pad and see if you're making an adequate impression, if not tamp harder until the desired results are obtained.
- To remove the stamp pad, place a foot on one side of the pad to preclude it from skidding, and peel it back and off the surface, don't lift the pad straight up.
- If the Systex Stamp material extrudes or flows forming thick areas then you are tamping too early or too hard.
- If the Stamp material sticks to the pad then you're either tamping too early or you're not using enough release agent, or both.
- If for some reason some of the Systex Stamp material sticks to the pad upon removal, don't leave defects unattended repair them immediately. Also do not use the pad again until it has been washed and dried.

If a pattern is desired, then before the material hardens completely, either cut a pattern or remove tape.

- The proper time to remove tape or cut a pattern in the Systex Stamp material is when it has become crumbly when disturbed. Having edges which have a crumbled appearance will give a realistic stone affect.
- To remove tape, pull it back over itself not straight up.
- At intersections of the tape patterns, place one's fingers on both sides of the tape and pull the tape between your fingers to preclude chipping a corner. Perfectly straight edges do not look like stone; therefore some chipping is not only acceptable but very desirable.
- To cut patterns in the surface one can make a cutting tool by bending a piece of metal banding strap in a U, one-half inch wide and taping it to a stick.
- Cut completely through the topping to the base concrete.
- Should you plan to cut a random stone pattern, you will benefit from the opportunity to cut any defects away when the pattern is cut into the surface.
- When cutting an intersection with an existing cut mark stop short 3" or 4" and cut away from the intersection to finish the cut.
- Don't make four corner intersections – only three.

- Either follow the impression left from a stencil or free hand cut. Be sure to cut through blemishes, cracks, and joints to make them a part of the pattern.
- Remove cuttings only after the Systex Stamp material is hard, preferably the next day.
- Joints can be made the next day by grinding.
- In order to traverse stamped areas, allow the Systex Stamped area to harden to the point that it is not pliable and then use 2" thick pieces of expanded polystyrene foam (2 foot squares) as knee boards to carefully cross the deck area.

Day 2

Color can be added after the Systex Stamp material is stamped.

- After cleaning the deck, color can be added by using acrylic or acid stains.
- Wet the deck thoroughly; never apply acid stains on a dry deck. To get a realistic effect with acid stains allow a slow stream of water to carry the acid across the deck.
- Acrylic stains work best diluted.
- Acid stains should be used before buffing the joints or the surface.
- Green and blue acid stains are not readily carried or dispersed by water.

When the deck is clean and completely dry, apply the Systex Clear Seal.

- Whether cleaning or staining allow the deck to dry completely before proceeding to apply Systex Clear Seal. When applying acrylic sealer, use a roller. Remember that water can cause it to turn white if it is not sufficiently dry before contact. Therefore, never apply it early in the morning. Allow time for dew or water to burn off. Also, never apply it late in the afternoon; it must have time to dry before the dew sets on it. It should have at least 24 hours before it is subject to rain. All acrylic coatings are subject to forming a white film if subjected to rain within 24 hours of application, and even longer if there is cold weather (below 65° F).

Points to Remember

- The surface can only be buffed when wet. It can be hand buffed after 24 hrs. and machine buffed (with a fine grit pad) after a week. Be sure to wash the deck and rinse thoroughly to remove all loose material. Joints can be scrubbed with a scouring pad to remove remnants of topping.
- Systex Stamp will not bond cracked pieces of concrete together.
- After troweling, before the stamp material is fully hard, any disturbance of the stamp material surface with water can cause white spots.
- Stamp material excessively thick will develop shrinkage cracks.