



# SPREADROCK

## COATING SYSTEM



## Complete Installation Instructions:

- **STEP 1:** Preparation and Priming
- **STEP 2:** Application of SpreadRock
- **Step 3:** Application of Sealer
- Creative Techniques



# STEP 1: Preparing and Priming the Surface

Surface preparation is by far the most important step in your SpreadRock project. The cleanliness and overall surface condition of the area to be coated will directly determine the quality and long-term performance of your SpreadRock finish.



For best long term performance, the surface to be coated should be clean and dry, free from dust, dirt, loose flaking, oils, poorly bonded or glossy paint, glue, surface sealers, efflorescence and other substances.

## CONCRETE:

Surface should be level and in good condition. Chip away any loose or flaking concrete and skim coat any rough or uneven areas with a quality leveling compound. Try to get the surface as smooth and uniform as possible to ensure that deep pitting, bumps and other unsightly flaws do not transmit through your SpreadRock finish later. This is also the time to mend any cracks in the concrete surface. These should be fixed with a quality crack repair product. If you have a troublesome, recurring crack in the surface you may wish to look at the option of saw-cutting it relieve pressure in the slab. Hairline cracks do not need to be filled prior to application of SpreadRock. Allow all repair materials to cure as directed.

## Cleaning Interior Concrete:

Vigorously scrub the surface with a deck brush and strong TSP (trisodium phosphate). Rinse well and remove dirty water with a water-compatible vacuum or adequate drainage. Allow to dry fully.

(Figure 1.1)



## Cleaning Exterior Concrete:

Begin by etching the surface area with a 2/1 muriatic acid and water solution. This is a fairly simple process and only takes a few minutes to do. To make an etching solution: partly fill a bucket with water. Pour muriatic acid into the water. Stir gently. (Wear protective clothing, gloves and eyewear and follow any safety precautions as listed on the muriatic

container. Etching should be done in a well ventilated area.)

- 1) Wet nearby soil, flowers and shrubs immediately prior to etching to protect them from the etching.
- 2) Pour the mixture gently onto the surface. Step away from the area to avoid breathing any vapors and allow it to fizz for a couple minutes.
- 3) When fizzing stops, gently rinse away etching solution with a garden hose.

Etching is mainly used to add a profile to the surface for better adhesion and it is the first important step in cleaning. Next, you need to actually remove any embedded dirt and remaining acid residue from the surface to ensure maximum bond (see figure 1.1). For this stage you have the following two options:

**Option 1)** Using a stiff deck brush, vigorously scrub the area with a strong TSP (trisodium phosphate) solution and rinse thoroughly.



**Option 2)** Use a power washer to clean the surface. **For the most reliable cleaning we strongly recommend that you choose this option.** Use a unit with at least 2400 psi pressure and clean the surface with slow sweeping movements holding the spray tip about three inches from the surface. You will see a big difference in the cleanliness of the area using this method.

**New Concrete:** Allow a minimum 28 days cure before application.

**New Masonry:** Allow at least 48 hours cure before application. Longer in cool or damp conditions.

### REMOVING GLUE:

Glue is a common problem encountered on porches, basement floors, etc. Glues for carpet, tile, vinyl, etc., should be removed as best as possible to ensure the best bond for your new SpreadRock finish.

1) Begin by using a heavy-duty floor scraper to remove glue. This tool is usually available at most tool rental shops and should be very effective at removing both weakly bonded and stubborn glue residue. Wash area thoroughly after scraping.

2) For exterior surfaces, you may wish to then power wash the surface (after scraping) with a heavy duty 3000 psi unit. Along with removing more glue, this will also provide an excellent general cleaning. This step is not absolutely mandatory — but very highly recommended.

3) After employing these steps, any glue that remains is probably there to stay. We recommend you skim the area with a polymer-enhanced masonry coating 48 hours prior to applying SpreadRock. This will act as a barrier between the SpreadRock and any remaining glue.

### REMOVING PAINT:

Like glue, paint can get in the way of SpreadRock's ability to bond effectively to the surface (especially with exterior applications involving freeze/thaw cycles).

1) For interior painted surfaces, scuff the paint well using a medium to coarse grit sandpaper. This will add more bonding profile to the surface and also remove any poorly bonded paint. Wash away all dust or debris.

2) For exterior paint, and depending on the type of surface, you have the following options:

- **For Wood:** sand off all paint. Fully remove all sanding dust and paint debris.
- **For Concrete:** remove all paint by grinding and /or power washing the surface. Ensure that all dust and loose debris are cleaned off prior to priming. (If paint is solidly adhered to the surface, a light scuffing with medium grit sandpaper, followed by washing may be adequate.)

### WOOD:

SpreadRock bonds extremely well to wood. As with concrete, however, the wood must be clean and in good condition prior to application of the SpreadRock Coating System. The surface to be coated should be free from dust, dirt, surface sealers and other contaminants which may block SpreadRock's bonding power. This is especially true with interior wood flooring and exterior decking surfaces.

1) On clean new plywood, wipe down the surface with a damp sponge to remove dust. If there are surface sealers, paints and other previous coatings on the wood, sanding this off will be necessary in outdoor installations. For indoor jobs a general surface scuffing with a medium to coarse sandpaper is generally sufficient. Remove all sanding dust with a vacuum then wipe down with a damp sponge.

### SPREADROCK ON WOOD FLOORS

**Interior:** Use plywood of at least 1/2" thickness. To guard against possible cracking, use tongue and groove wood to minimize movement between sheets and fasten solidly to floor joists. Otherwise ensure that edges are solidly screwed down to minimize movement. Though SpreadRock is highly flexible it is still best to ensure that these precautions are taken. For additional security, some users choose to apply a mesh and scratch coat to the wood surface prior to applying SpreadRock.

**Interior Hardwood Floors:** On applications over hardwood flooring it may be necessary to first coat the floor with an oil-based primer to create a barrier between SpreadRock and previously applied wood stains which could contaminate and discolour your SpreadRock finish. When oil-based primer is completely dry, lightly scuff the surface with a fine sandpaper, taking care not to penetrate through to the wood. Thoroughly remove sanding dust from the surface.

**Exterior:** Use good quality plywood of at least 1/2" thickness. To guard against possible cracking, use tongue and groove wood to minimize movement between sheets and fasten solidly to deck joists. For additional security, you may wish to apply a mesh and scratch coat to the wood surface prior to applying SpreadRock.

### INTERIOR DRYWALL (Plasterboard):

Wipe down the surface with a damp sponge to remove dust. If there is paint on the wall, lightly scuff the surface with a medium grit sandpaper then wipe away sanding debris with a damp sponge.

### APPLYING THE PRIMER:

Once your concrete, wood or drywall (plasterboard) surface has been cleaned and prepared, it is time to coat the surface with SpreadRock Primer. If you are going to use a grout pattern in your installation, you may wish to have your SpreadRock dealer tint the primer to a color you feel would compliment your SpreadRock finish.

1) Stir SpreadRock Primer and pour some into a paint tray.

2) With a small roller or paint brush apply primer to outer edges as well as parts of the installation area that will be inaccessible with a full-sized roller.

3) Roll a uniform coat onto the remaining surface area.

4) If you wish, for additional workability, you may add a couple tablespoons of water to each litre of Primer.

5) Allow SpreadRock Primer to dry fully prior to application of SpreadRock.

### Drying Time:

Average drying time for SpreadRock Primer is about one hour – longer in damp or cool conditions and in interior settings. Protect the area from foot traffic and contamination until you are ready to apply SpreadRock.

### Coverage:

Average coating area per litre of SpreadRock Primer is about 42 sq.ft.. Coverage will vary depending on the roughness of the surface and the thickness at which you apply it.

# STEP 2: Applying Your SpreadRock Finish

Now that your surface is prepared and primed, you are ready to apply the SpreadRock finish. With the following directions – and a bit of practice – you should soon be achieving beautiful results!



- 1) Stir SpreadRock thoroughly prior to application using a stir stick or a paint stirring attachment on a power drill.
- 2) In small manageable amounts, press firmly and apply SpreadRock uniformly to the intended area with a trowel or spatula. Firm trowelling pressure will encourage a smoother "self-levelled" finish that is dictated by the thickness of SpreadRock's stone content. To avoid possible thin areas and achieve a more attractive and durable finish, we recommend applying two thin coats (instead of one thicker coat) several hours apart. Wait until the first coat is thoroughly dry before attempting to install the second coat. When the second coat is applied, any "show-through" of the primer coat will be concealed leaving a uniform SpreadRock coating. Though this method uses about 20% more material, it ensures superior control throughout the installation — and the highest quality finish.
- 3) Inadequately coated areas or "show-through" will need an additional thin coat to ensure adequate coverage. If this is necessary, use added pressure to apply a thin patch coat to required areas and feather blend the edges with a damp sponge.
- 4) On vertical surfaces a plastering "hawk" can be used to conveniently hold material during application and limit spillage. Pull product upwards with a trowel or spatula, smooth the finish and allow to dry fully.

- 5) Always work "wet-in-wet" to achieve a clean uniform appearance and avoid unsightly ridges or "cold joints." If you must stop prior to completion, do so at a natural breaking point in the surface.
- 6) For best control, do not apply under hot sunlight. For better workability and to slow drying time, use a spray bottle to lightly mist SpreadRock with water during application. This will help you trowel the product down more smoothly, especially on very warm days.
- 7) To remove any trowel marks and other imperfections, use the plastic smoother tool that came with your SpreadRock. If you didn't get one ask your dealer for one. You can also install SpreadRock using a trowel with rounded corners to avoid leaving trowel marks altogether. *(Smoothing the surface isn't mandatory. Many users actually prefer imperfections for a more "rustic" effect.)*
- 8) Working temperature must not be less than 5° C or more than 40° C during installation and for a full 24 hours after application.
- 9) Once you've completed coating the surface, protect it from dirt and foot traffic by roping off the area and allow it to cure for 24 hours (longer in damp or cool conditions) prior to sealing.
- 10) Clean your tools with soap and water before material dries.

## COVERAGE:

SpreadRock covers an average of 33 sq.ft. per gallon (3.78 litres) and 165 sq.ft. per five gallons (18.9 litres). Coverage may vary depending on installation thickness of material and roughness of the surface area being coated.

## DRY & CURE TIMES:

SpreadRock is dry to the touch in 60 minutes - longer in interior applications – depending on climactic conditions. On warm days with adequate air circulation, second coats of SpreadRock can be applied just a few hours after the first coat. Protect SpreadRock from rain or heavy condensation for 6 - 8 hours after application. Allow a full 24 hours for final cure – longer in damp or cool conditions.

## STEEL TROWEL AND SPATULA



## TROWELING ACTION





# STEP 3: Sealing Your SpreadRock Finish

With your SpreadRock installation completed to your satisfaction, it is now time to roll on a protective coat of Sealer. It's specially formulated to help keep SpreadRock clean and waterproof.



1) Ensure that the area to be sealed is completely clean and dry. Though you roped off the area to block foot traffic during the 24 hour cure period, it's possible that wind-swept debris, bird droppings and other items may have gathered there. In clean stocking feet or clean shoes, sweep or wipe away foreign matter that may be on the SpreadRock surface.

2) If there is any sponginess in the SpreadRock it may require more time to dry out. To be safe, leave it to dry an additional day. It is important that you do not trap moisture below the sealer coat. During freeze/thaw cycles trapped moisture could expand and cause adhesion problems later on.

3) On interior floor applications, we recommend application of Acrylic Urethane Clear prior to general sealing. Clear is a high-building clear roll-on film that fills the tiny gaps in between the stones that make up your SpreadRock finish. Apply one uniform coat and allow to cure at least 24 hours before application of sealer. (Avg. coverage: 150 sq.ft./gal)

4) Pour Acrylic Sealer into a paint tray and roll on a good uniform coat using a lint-free 10mm nap roller. **On exterior applications apply a second coat 24 hours later.** It is generally not necessary to seal a wall that has been coated with SpreadRock.

5) Rope off the sealed area to allow curing and discourage foot traffic for 24 hours (longer in damp or cool conditions). Do not step onto the surface while the sealer is still tacky. Any dirt tracked into the sealer will be there permanently.



## SpreadRock Maintenance Guidelines



### CARE & MAINTENANCE

Your SpreadRock surface is a highly durable coating which requires very little maintenance. However, to ensure long life of your SpreadRock finish, we suggest that you follow these few simple guidelines:

### CLEANING

For most surfaces, a damp mop or sponge is usually adequate. For tougher dirt or stains, use a mild soapy cleanser and deck brush. For dark oil stains use a degreaser soap and water. For the toughest grease stains try a little paint thinner and a sponge or soft bristle brush followed by degreaser soap. Do not use wire brushes or concentrated high pressure (1800 psi or higher) spraying equipment to clean.

### RE-SEALING

Re-seal your exterior SpreadRock coating once a year for preventive maintenance. Simply wash the surface prior to sealing with soapy water and a deck brush. Rinse thoroughly and allow to dry for several hours. Apply one coat of Acrylic Sealer. Protect the area from foot traffic for 12 hours.

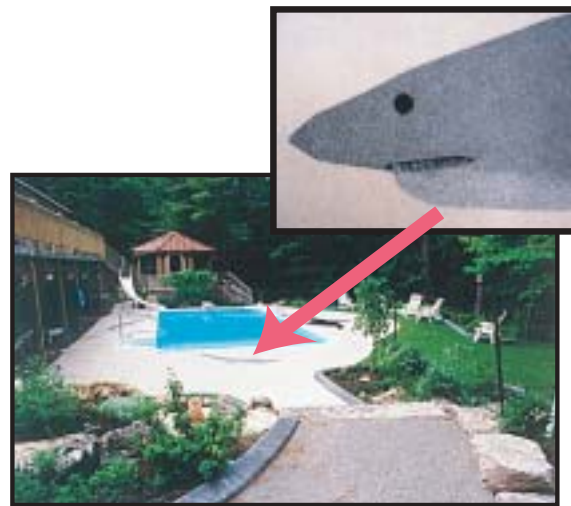
### SNOW & ICE REMOVAL

To shovel snow, please use a plastic shovel. Metal shovels may have rough edges that could scratch or chip your finish. For removing ice from walking areas, avoid using sharp metal tools such as ice picks, spades or similar instruments. Instead, please use salt or a salt substitute to remove ice.



# Getting Creative with SpreadRock

There's no doubt that SpreadRock applied seamlessly looks great. But with such versatility there are all kinds of ways to set your unique vision in stone! Try the ideas below – or let us know about any other techniques you discover.



## ADDING "GROUT" LINES

You can create tile patterns in any size or style you wish by creating a "grout line" in the surface of your SpreadRock finish. Just use tape like a custom stencil and leave some of the Primer coat – tinted in a complimentary color – exposed in your favorite pattern.



**STEP 1:** Using strong high-tack tape at least 1/4" wide, tape out a tile pattern of your choice. Press the tape down firmly all along its length to ensure good adhesion.



**STEP 2:** Gently apply a coat of SpreadRock, taking care not to pull up the tape or push material underneath.



**STEP 3:** When the SpreadRock top coat looks good, remove the tape to expose the Primer. Pull up the tape when SpreadRock is dry or wet.

## MULTI-COLORED PATTERNS

Multi-colored designs can be created by installing one color directly on top of another or by using stenciling techniques to create a flush surface finish as show below. In either case masking tape is used to block out shapes. Below, we create a simple border.



**STEP 1:** With your pattern taped out, apply your first color and, when complete, peel off the masking tape to expose the area which remains to be coated with the next color.



**STEP 2:** When the first color is dry, protect its edge with masking tape. Carefully apply the next color letting it "butt up" against the first.



**STEP 3:** When the second color has been applied allow it to dry. Peel off the masking tape and perform any required touch-ups.

## FLAGSTONE EFFECTS

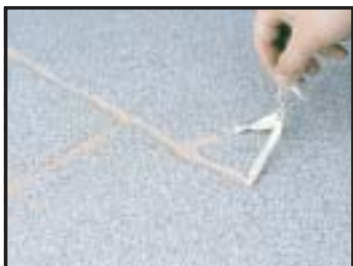
Another popular design alternative with SpreadRock is doing flagstone effects. You can choose from contemporary styles using straight-edged tape as shown in step 1, or you can cut the tape for a more authentic feel as illustrated in step 2.



**STEP 1:** Using strong high-tack tape at least 1/4" wide, tape out a random flagstone pattern of your choice. Press the tape down firmly all to ensure good adhesion.



**STEP 2:** With a sharp utility knife, trim off the straight edges of the tape to create a wavy mortar look. Use at least 1" masking tape.



**STEP 3:** Gently apply the SpreadRock top coat to desired effect. Peel the tape to expose the Primer coat below. SpreadRock can be wet or dry.