



CURECRETE DISTRIBUTION, INC.

Technical Services

Bulletin No. 7, Revision 2

11-28-2000

PAINTING AND STRIPING A CONCRETE SURFACE TREATED WITH THE ASHFORD FORMULA

There is no chemical reason for paints not to adhere to a floor treated with The Ashford Formula. The Ashford Formula contains no ingredients that inhibit chemical bonding. After The Ashford Formula has penetrated the concrete surface and reacted, none of The Ashford Formula is really left. What remains is a densified version of the concrete that was there in the first place, slightly richer in silicates. Since silicates are in concrete anyway, the floor surface may be regarded as concrete when planning for paints.

Although there are no **chemical** problems with proper paint adhesion, there can be problems with **mechanical** bonding. The surface must be *rough* enough for paint to properly adhere. Floors **with a tight**, hard troweled surface may need to be roughened whether they have The Ashford Formula on them or not.

Mechanical bonding relates to the "**profile**" or "**bite**" of the concrete, which is determined not by The Ashford Formula, but by the type of finish on the floor surface. When properly applied, The Ashford Formula does not change the profile of the floor surface, nor does The Ashford Formula normally affect the mechanical bond of paints, except in these situations:

1. If The Ashford Formula treated floor is mature, and a significant sheen has already developed, the floor surface may lack the profile for a good mechanical bond. This normally happens on floors with a year or two of service, but can happen earlier.
2. If a floor, even a new floor, has been treated with a second application of The Ashford Formula, the paint bond will be affected. This second application, or "spiff coat" as it is often called, tends to alter the profile of the concrete by leaving a slight film of The Ashford Formula on the floor surface. This can make for a poor mechanical bond because the normal "peaks and valleys" in the concrete finish are partially smoothed out. If it is known in advance that a floor will need striping, then the stripes should be applied *before* the spiff coat, not after.
3. If The Ashford Formula residue from a normal application is not thoroughly removed, it can affect the proper bonding of paint. **This is one of the reasons why the "flush and squeegee" step in our application instructions is so important.** When The Ashford Formula has been properly installed, there should be no material sitting on top of the floor. Only the material that has penetrated the floor surface should remain.

In situations 1 and 2, it is advisable to "rough up" the concrete, taking care to follow these guidelines:

1. If stripes are to be applied, mask off the floor area where stripes are needed.
2. Abrade the masked area with acetic acid to roughen the floor and ensure proper paint adhesion. We recommend a “baseline” treatment of five parts water to one part of acetic acid for about 25 minutes on a test area. If desired results are not achieved, more/less time with greater/lesser concentrations may be attempted.
3. Do not allow the acid to concentrate in any section of the treated area. Ensure even distribution.
4. Do not allow acid to dry on the floor.
5. Remove with scrubbing machine, using a thorough rinse and vacuum. Several passes are recommended to ensure proper removal.
6. If paint manufacturer requires that the floor be neutralized, use a high pH detergent and scrubbing machine to do so.
7. Apply paint, ***being careful to follow all manufacturer instructions***.

If a floor has been previously treated with The Ashford Formula, treating it with the acetic acid will normally not affect the seal. It is therefore not necessary to re-treat the floor afterwards.

If the above procedure (No. 7) is not practical (i.e. on very large floors) then there is another option. Use power equipment designed to roughen a narrow, straight line having the width of a paint stripe. Most equipment made for this purpose can lightly roughen the surface by means of a 3M rotating peen attachment, or by means of cutting wheels with narrow working widths. Once the line has been roughened and cleaned, apply paint stripe to the roughened area as per paint manufacturer’s instructions.

Equipment* should not create a groove or channel in the concrete. A light profile is adequate for good paint adhesion.

In situation No. 3, The Ashford Formula residue must usually be removed either by scrubbing or by aggressively sanding the floor, depending on how long the residue has been left on the surface. If the removal process, especially sanding, smoothes out the floor too much, then the surface must obviously be roughened afterward.

* **Note** For information on roughening narrow areas with power equipment, contact EDCO (www.edcoinc.com) at 1-800-638-3326, or your paint manufacturer.