



TRIDENTTM

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

STRIVING FOR SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Sealers 101

Understanding sealer types & how to select the right one

TB 1

Making the right sealer choice is dependent on what is most important to the project owner.

When it comes to Trident sealers, there are two major types - film forming and penetrating. Each type of sealer has its own characteristics and features that provide different benefits. Selecting the right sealer really is dependent on what the project owner is looking to achieve by sealing their surface. Asking the right questions and knowing what each Trident sealer offers will make it easier to match the best product with your customer's expectations.

First, let's go over the types of sealers Trident offers and some of their benefits. Trident water and solvent based film forming sealers (Cyclone, Typhoon, Tsunami and Hurricane Series) form a breathable stain resistant and UV protected film on the surface making it easier to clean and maintain. Depending on the sealer selected and the substrate, most film formers will provide a level of sheen from a matte to as much as a semi-gloss and can offer no enhancement all the way to a "wet look" with deep tone change of the color. Care should be taken to not over apply the sealer on a smooth surface because this may result in a slippery condition. This can be avoided by the addition of an anti-slip additive mixed into the sealer to increase the friction of the surface. Trident's joint stabilizing sealers will stabilize (harden) the joint sand when applied with a flood coat and squeegee method. They can also be applied as a sealer using a spray and back roll technique to provide enhancement and protection without stabilizing the joint sand. Trident's unique Fungal Guard available only in our joint stabilizing sealers will prevent mold, moss and algae on the sealer film. Depending on environmental and site conditions, typically film forming sealers last anywhere from 2-4 years before the surface needs to be resealed.

Trident Break Wall, Sea Wall and Jetty water and solvent based penetrating sealers penetrate the surface to form a breathable non-film forming barrier of protection. Some Trident penetrating sealers are silane/siloxane formulas offering a natural look without changing the surface enhancement or sheen levels. They provide durable surface protection that includes superior water repellency and salt blocking. In areas susceptible to higher levels of staining, Trident Barrier, a fluorinated semi-penetrating sealer, provides superior stain blocking protection without changing the surface appearance. Depending on environmental and site conditions, life expectancy for Trident penetrating sealers is anywhere from 5-10 years before needing re-application.

Now, let's focus on how to successfully select a sealer for a project. First, you need to understand what your customer's goal is in sealing their project as well as their expectations. When the project is segmental pavement, start with joint stabilization. Does the joint sand need to be replaced and stabilized? If so, Trident has multiple joint stabilizing sealers to choose from. To narrow the choices, find out if the customer wants to enhance their surface by deepening the tone and/or adding a sheen.

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If the surface is not segmental, start with uncovering whether the customer wants surface enhancement. For clarification, explain to your customer what the terms “sheen” (gloss, semi-gloss, satin) and “enhancement” (deepen the tone) mean and show them samples as explained in [TB2 Getting It Right The First Time](#). Wet look is a commonly used term that describes the combination of enhancement and some level of sheen. Trident’s enhancing sealers are made up of joint stabilizing sealers (remember these can be applied as a joint stabilizing sealer or as a sealer), two-part sealers and a hybrid designed for natural stone.

If you uncover your customer’s goal in sealing is strictly to prevent water and possibly salt damage or to provide superior stain blocking protection, one of Trident’s penetrating sealers will be the best choice. If joint stabilization is desired in addition to using a penetrating sealer, PolySweep polymeric sand can be used to provide stabilized sand joints.

To further assist you with selecting a sealer, refer to Trident’s sealer selection guide found on www.tridentprotects.com.

