



TRIDENTTM

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

STRIVING FOR SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Sealer Application Demystified

Spray & back roll technique and wet-on-wet defined

TB 6

The way a sealer is applied can affect the final outcome just as much as weather and site preparation.

The spray and back roll technique is the recommended application method used with most sealers except when applying a joint stabilizing sealer to perform joint stabilization (see TB 5 to learn more about flood coat application). The term wet-on-wet with sealer application describes when a second application of sealer should be applied.

Using the right tools for applying sealers is critical to achieving the best coverage rate and optimal performance. A low-pressure high volume sprayer is ideal for controlling application rates and for sealing large areas in the shortest amount of time. A pump up sprayer is another alternative and works well for smaller jobs. With a spray and back roll application, a slit foam roller is also needed to even out and remove excess sealer on all surfaces especially textured. If you are applying a solvent based sealer, be sure to use equipment made of solvent resistant design with Viton seals.

Before you begin, consult the sealer's label or technical data sheet to determine the expected range of coverage. A range is typically provided because the type, age, condition and porosity of the surface material can affect actual coverage. Using the coverage guidelines and working in a manageable 10' x 10' area, apply the sealer by holding the sprayer nozzle perpendicular to the surface and spray while overlapping each pass. Make sure the surface is completely saturated and watch for indicators that your project may require more or less sealer. If the surface is quickly absorbing sealer you will need to cover less square feet per gallon than if there is excessive pooling of sealer on the surface where you will want to cover more square feet per gallon.

Before moving on to the rest of the project, use the slit foam roller to back roll the area just sprayed to eliminate pooling of the sealer on natural stone or a textured surface. If the excess sealer is left to dry on the surface it could result in mottling or cloudy areas where there is too much sealer. With a film forming sealer, do not roll back and forth excessively, as this may cause bubbling. Rolling when sealer film starts to become tacky can cause the roller to become stringy and damage the sealer. Once the back rolling is complete, continue with the rest of the project.

With penetrating sealers where a second coat is recommended, the second application may need to be applied "wet-on-wet". This means the second application of sealer should be applied before the second starts to dry, which is about 10 minutes after the first coat. The second application should be applied at a right angle to the first application and back rolled to ensure complete coverage. Do not allow surface to dry between coats.

Proper technique when sealing is a sure way to obtain sealing success and seal the deal!