



DECORATIVE STAIN (Base & Concentrate)

Preferred Deck's **Decorative Stain** is an easy-to-use, high-quality, water-based coloring product that is much safer and easier to use than acid stain. Colors are also consistent and predictable, since this stain does not chemically react with the substrate. Realize that not all water-based stains are created equal. Inferior-quality stains often lay on top of surface and can easily scratch off. This deep-penetrating product is suitable for both residential and commercial applications. **Decorative Stain** is very versatile and can be used on POROUS surfaces such as a Preferred Deck's overlay system, etched concrete, pavers, natural stone, and some brick.

This UV stable product can safely be used on both interior and exterior applications without fading, discoloration, or adhesion problems. **Stain Base** is sold in two (2) separate components. Add the **Color Concentrate** of your choice into **Stain Base** and shake well before and during application. Water is not added unless a lighter color is desired (up to 8 oz. per gallon.)

Once desired stain color/effect is achieved and dry enough to walk on (tack-free), it **MUST** be sealed. Apply either Preferred Deck's **Clear Coat Sealer** or **Southwest Seal**. For increased shine/durability, use compatible polyurethane. Polyaspartic sealer is a good choice if quick return to service is desired. Sealer choice is key and best determined by project's demands.

Available in 24 Standard Colors: White, Pacific Bluff, Sandy Beige, Baja Beach, New Sierra, Desert Trail, Diego Buff, Roasted Pecan, Dark Walnut, Canyon Country, Terra-Cotta Clay, Rustic Red, Slate Gray, Antique Gray, Charcoal Gray, Bold Black, Ochre, Sage, Emerald, Teal, Ocean, Plum, Orange, and Ruby.

Stain Base Available In: 1-gallon jug (9 lbs.) and 5-gallon bucket (45 lbs.)

Stain Color Concentrate Available In: 6 oz. (mixes into 1-gallon jug of **Base**) and 30 oz. (for 5-gallon bucket of **Base**.)

COVERAGE RATES: MAIN COLOR - *Concrete:* Approx. 400 sq. ft. per gal. *Preferred Deck Overlay:* 300 sq. ft. per gal. HIGHLIGHT COLORS – up to 1000 sq. ft. per gallon. For best results, generally two (2) coats are applied. As with all stains, coverage rates vary greatly, depending on amount of stain used, desired color, application technique, weather conditions, and characteristics of the substrate.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC): 55-58 grams/liter, depending on color.
Solid Count varies, depending on color.

APPLICATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Achieve many colors/effects. Most common applications are a UNIFORM and MOTTLED stain effect. Details below.
- Use gallon pump-up sprayer with fan tip (not conical), spray bottle, soft "truck wash" brush, clean broom, grout sponge, rag, or brush. Roller covers do not typically work well due to air bubbles.
- CONCRETE: Apply first layer to DAMP concrete to prevent spotting/streaking. No dry time required after surface prep.
- OVERLAY: MUST let texture dry overnight. Additional time may be needed for lower temps or indoor applications.

APPLICATION TEMPERATURES: SUBSTRATE temperature must be between 50-115° F, since extreme temperatures interfere with adhesion.

LIMITATIONS

- Do not allow **Decorative Stain** to puddle when spraying on DAMP concrete.
- On vertical surfaces, stain tends to drip/run. Use less stain and carefully work into substrate with brush, rag, or sponge.
- Apply with good ventilation only. Wear respirator if needed/desired.
- Since stains are not opaque by nature, this product will not fully cover surface defects.
- Patched/repaired areas may be obvious since patches receive more/less stain, due to penetration differences.

- Use MOTTLED stain effect to camouflage imperfections in substrate (uniform effect is not suggested).
- Do not use stain over previously stained/sealed surfaces that contain epoxy, polyurethane, or silicone, since it will not adhere. Contact us for details.
- Not meant for wood surfaces.
- Not meant for concrete countertops, since these are non-porous/polymer-rich/tight surfaces that cannot be etched.
- **Decorative Stain** does not work well on extremely porous surfaces (block/some brick.) Test first. Instead, these substrates should be primed first with **Additive/ EFF-Reducer** then sprayed with **Top Coat/ Reflecto Seal**.
- New concrete must be fully cured before applying (with no “green spots”) - averages 30 days.
- Do not apply in extreme conditions. CONCRETE temperature MUST be at least 50° F and ambient temperature at least 60° F and rising.
- If product freezes in container, simply thaw and use: this is a freeze/thaw stable product. Once stain is applied, do not allow to freeze until fully cured.

SURFACE PREPARATION:

A properly prepared substrate is key. It must be clean, porous, and structurally sound. If applying a Preferred Deck system, refer to **Aggregate** Technical Data Sheet for surface prep details.

Surface prep varies, depending on project size/type/condition. Remove any loose contaminates, epoxy, polyurethane sealers, curing agents, rust, efflorescence, and bond-breakers by any of the following methods: surface grinding, acid etching (and neutralizing), scraping, sanding, pressure washing, sand blasting, shot blasting, wet/dry vacuuming, etching with Preferred Deck's **Super Deck Prep**, and degreasing with Preferred Deck's **All-Purpose Deck Cleaner**. Correctly prepared surfaces should be free of ALL contaminants and be porous, meaning water quickly penetrates surface. Contact us if needed.

For stain-to-concrete applications: Broom-finished concrete is NOT a properly prepared surface and must still be etched/abraded. Surface does not need to have an aggressive profile (as in epoxy applications) – just enough to achieve uniform porosity. Realize that swirl marks/pits created from prep will be accentuated once stained. If desired, repair cracks and imperfections: however, leaving them as-is can help create a rustic vibe. Cementitious patches are preferred since this will be less noticeable than other patch materials. Contact us for details.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

- Stain application varies greatly with substrate, contractor preference, and desired effect.
- Apply in layers, letting each dry (tack-free) before applying the next. Stain dries quickly.
- For a lighter version of same color, there are five (5) options:
 - Add less **Stain Color Concentrate** to **Base** (measure/keep track of ratio.)
 - Lightly mist substrate first with water and use only a small amount of stain.
 - Add water to mixed stain – maximum 8 oz. per gallon.
 - Mix two (2) different stains together
 - Apply a light color first to substrate (so darker color penetrates less.)
- Always apply **LIGHTEST COLOR FIRST** when using multiple colors.
- Use care when spraying - use light mist in layers. Do not let stain pool.
- Reseal/label partially used containers. There is no pot life. Store indoors/nonfreezing conditions.

ON CONCRETE:

- **Decorative Stain** is applied to DAMP concrete, so it can be applied immediately after prepping (no standing water.)
- If concrete is dry, mist concrete first with clean water (and throughout application if needed.)
- Additional layers are usually not dampened but may be beneficial with dry/breezy/hot conditions to prevent spotting.
- For UNIFORM coverage of stain, pour stain into clean, empty 3 or 5 gallon bucket. Use brush/broom to work in stain. Apply with long strokes and to only one section at a time, using control joints as a guide. Stain may appear streaked until dry. Apply second coat opposite direction of first once dry.
- For slightly MOTTLED effect, use one color in multiple layers. Light-mist sprayers or grout sponges work best.
- For prominent MOTTLED effect, choose one “main” color. Let dry. Randomly add one/two darker “highlight” colors.
- Build up layers of stain until desired effect is achieved.
- For a prominently mottled effect that mimics acid-stains, sponge in many layers of different colors of stain, letting each layer dry completely. Some have also successfully used air to push stain around in ripple effects.

ON PAVERS and some BRICK (depends on porosity):

- Test porosity. If substrate is too porous, stain penetrates deep into substrate and “disappears.”
- Do not acid etch pavers/brick/block since it can bleach out color. If etching is needed, use a “green product,” such as Preferred Deck’s **Super Deck Prep**.
- For pavers with loose sand, use wet/dry vacuum before spraying **Decorative Stain**.

ON PREFERRED DECK’S OVERLAY SYSTEM:

- Newly installed texture coat **MUST** dry overnight before applying stain. Additional dry time may be necessary for indoor applications or cold/damp conditions.
- Use gallon pump up sprayer with fan tip (not conical) for fastest application. Stain will naturally mottle/flow into low spots of texture.
- Typically surface does not need to be dampened before application but may be helpful in hot/dry/breezy conditions to prevent spotting.
- Smaller cut pieces of grout sponge work best for precise application in small area (i.e. multi-colored flagstone rocks.)
- Using same (one color) of **Decorative Stain** (applied in multiple layers) will produce only slight mottling.
- For prominent **MOTTLED** effect, use at least two different stain colors. One as first (main) color, then one or two highlight colors.
 - First Coat - spray lightest color and let dry. Do not flood or mottling may be difficult to achieve.
 - Mist **DRIED** stain with water and spray darker highlight color.
 - If spots occur, mist wet stain with additional water to help dissipate pigments/assist mottling.
 - Highlight colors/water can be applied with large spray bottles, since often only small amounts are needed.

SEALING: Once desired stain color/effect is achieved and dry enough to walk on (tack-free), it **MUST** be sealed. Apply either Preferred Deck’s **Clear Coat Sealer** or **Southwest Seal**. For increased shine/durability, use compatible polyurethane. Depending on type of polyurethane and how much stain is used, one coat of Preferred Deck’s **Clear Coat Sealer** may be needed to ensure adhesion to polyurethane. Solvent-based polyurethane sealers **MUST** be applied next day (to allow all moisture to come out), but **WITHIN 48** hours of stain application to ensure adhesion. Details below. Refer to sealer’s Technical Data Sheet for most accurate information. Add Preferred Deck’s **Nonskid Grip**, silica sand, aluminum oxide, or Resin Sand into sealer for added slip resistance. Contact us if needed.

DRY/CURE TIMES: For a Preferred Deck overlay system, consult **Aggregate** Technical Data Sheet. Times vary greatly with amount of stain used, type of substrate, prepping method, weather conditions, interior vs. exterior, and sun vs. shade. Cold/damp/humid conditions lengthen all dry/cure times. Each layer needs to be dry/tack-free before proceeding with additional stain/sealer.

Dry to Touch/Before Adding Additional Layers of Stain: Averages 30 minutes

Before Applying **Clear Coat Sealer**/Water-based Polyurethane: Averages 1 hour

Before Applying **Southwest Seal**/Solvent-based Polyurethane: Minimum – Overnight Dry

Light Traffic (depends on sealer choice): Averages 24 hours

Full Cure: Refer to sealer’s Technical Data Sheet for most complete information.

AFTER INSTALLATION: Area should not be exposed to rain/water for 48 hours. Water landscape by hand if needed. For newly installed Preferred Deck system, refer to **Aggregate** Technical Data Sheet for most complete information.

CLEAN UP: Water and mild soap.

MAINTENANCE: Sealer reapplication varies with type of project, sun/water/traffic exposure, and type of sealer. Refer to sealer’s Technical Data Sheet for most accurate information. Contact us if needed.

WARNING: Read, understand, and follow all labels, Technical Data Sheets, and Safety Data Sheets before purchasing/using product. Keep out of the reach of children. Aspiration Hazard: May be harmful if swallowed and enters airways. Avoid contact with eyes, skin, and clothing. Causes skin and serious eye irritation. Avoid breathing dust/fumes/gas/mist/vapours/spray. May cause respiratory irritation when inhaled. May cause damage to central nervous system through prolonged and repeated inhalation. Use only with adequate ventilation. Wash thoroughly after handling. This product contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. Do not transfer to other containers for storage.

FIRST AID: **INGESTION:** Do NOT induce vomiting. Immediately call a **POISON CENTER** or doctor/physician. **INHALATION:** Remove to fresh air and obtain medical attention. **EYES:** Immediately flush eyes with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes.

Remove contact lenses if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing. Get medical attention. SKIN: In case of contact, immediately flush skin with plenty of water. Remove contaminated clothing and shoes. Wash clothing before reuse. Get medical attention if irritation develops and persists.

DISPOSAL: Refer to Safety Data Sheet & comply with all local, state, and federal regulations.

WARRANTY: Products have a limited two year, non-transferable warranty. Consult prefdeck.com for full warranty details. All concerns are investigated by Preferred Deck Systems, LLC. with cooperation of the contractor who installed products. This is a professional-grade product. Warranty does not exist for homeowner/do-it-yourself (DIY) projects. Use at own risk.

DISCLAIMER AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY: To the best of our knowledge, the information contained herein is accurate. The warranty described herein shall be in lieu of any other warranty, express or implied, including but not limited to, any implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. There are no warranties that extend beyond the description on the face hereof. The Buyer's sole and exclusive remedy against Seller shall be for the replacement of the products or refund of the purchase price in the event that a defective condition of the products should be found to exist. No other remedy (including, but not limited to, incidental or consequential damages for lost profits, lost sales, injury to person or property, or any other incidental or consequential loss) shall be available to the Buyer. Buyer must give Seller notice in writing of any alleged defect covered by this warranty (together with all identifying details, including the Product Code(s), description, and date of purchase) within thirty (30) days of the discovery of the defect. Final determination whether the use infringes any patents, is the sole responsibility of the Buyer.