



# Stamped Concrete

Caring for your new stamped patio, walkway or driveway.

## THE FIRST FEW WEEKS

**IMPORTANT:** Your crew leader gives you the real dates for your job before we leave. Concrete gains strength on its own schedule — the mix, the weather and the slab all move it — so do not go by a number you read somewhere. Walking or parking on it early is the fastest way to damage work you have already paid for.

## EVERYDAY CARE

- Rinse it with a hose when it looks dusty. That is most of the job.
- Sweep off leaves, mulch and anything organic that sits wet against the surface — those are what leave stains.
- Wash spills off reasonably soon. Grease, oil, wine and fertilizer will all mark a sealed slab if they sit for days.
- Move planters and furniture occasionally so the slab weathers evenly underneath them.

## THINGS THAT DAMAGE STAMPED CONCRETE

- **Acid-based cleaners** and anything labeled for etching. They will strip the sealer and can bleach the color.
- **Pressure washing on a tight tip.** A narrow, close jet cuts the sealer straight off and leaves stripes. Wide fan, well back, low pressure.
- **Metal shovels and steel-bristle brushes.** Use plastic.
- **Sprinkler overspray** hitting the same spot every day. It leaves mineral rings and shortens the life of the sealer.

## YOUR SEALER

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| <b>What we used</b> | EZ Chem solvent-based acrylic, 25–30% solids, with a non-slip additive where the slab gets walked on wet. Solids is what stays behind once the solvent flashes off, so a higher-solids sealer leaves a thicker, longer-lasting film. |
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| <b>Why solvent-based</b> | It bites into the concrete and carries the color deeper, which is what gives the slab its saturated, just-wet look instead of a film sitting on top. |
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| <b>Resealing</b> | Every two to three years here on the Coastal Bend, sooner if your slab bakes in full sun all day or takes salt spray. Sealer is the part that wears — resealing on time is what keeps the color looking new. |
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| <b>Who does it</b> | We do. Call us and we will come back and reseal it. |
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## NORMAL, AND NOT A DEFECT

- **Hairline cracking.** Concrete shrinks as it cures and moves with the ground under it. We control WHERE it moves with steel, thickness and cut joints, but we cannot stop it moving. Hairline cracks are normal and are not a defect.
- **Color variation.** Every batch, every trowel pass and every hour of sun changes the shade slightly. Variation is what makes it read as stone rather than as a factory tile.
- **Efflorescence.** A white, chalky bloom that can appear early on, while the slab is still drying out and moisture carries salts to the surface. It is normal, it is not mold, and it usually weathers off. Call us if it bothers you and we will treat it.



## WARRANTY

Keen warrants our workmanship for one year. Cracking, color variation and efflorescence are inherent to concrete and are excluded — that is written plainly in your agreement rather than hidden in it.

**Questions about your slab?** Call or text us at 361-420-7726. We would far rather answer a question now than fix something later, and there is no charge for asking.