

HOW TO USE

How to do a stamped concrete on fresh concrete?



A set of stamps
(3 at least)



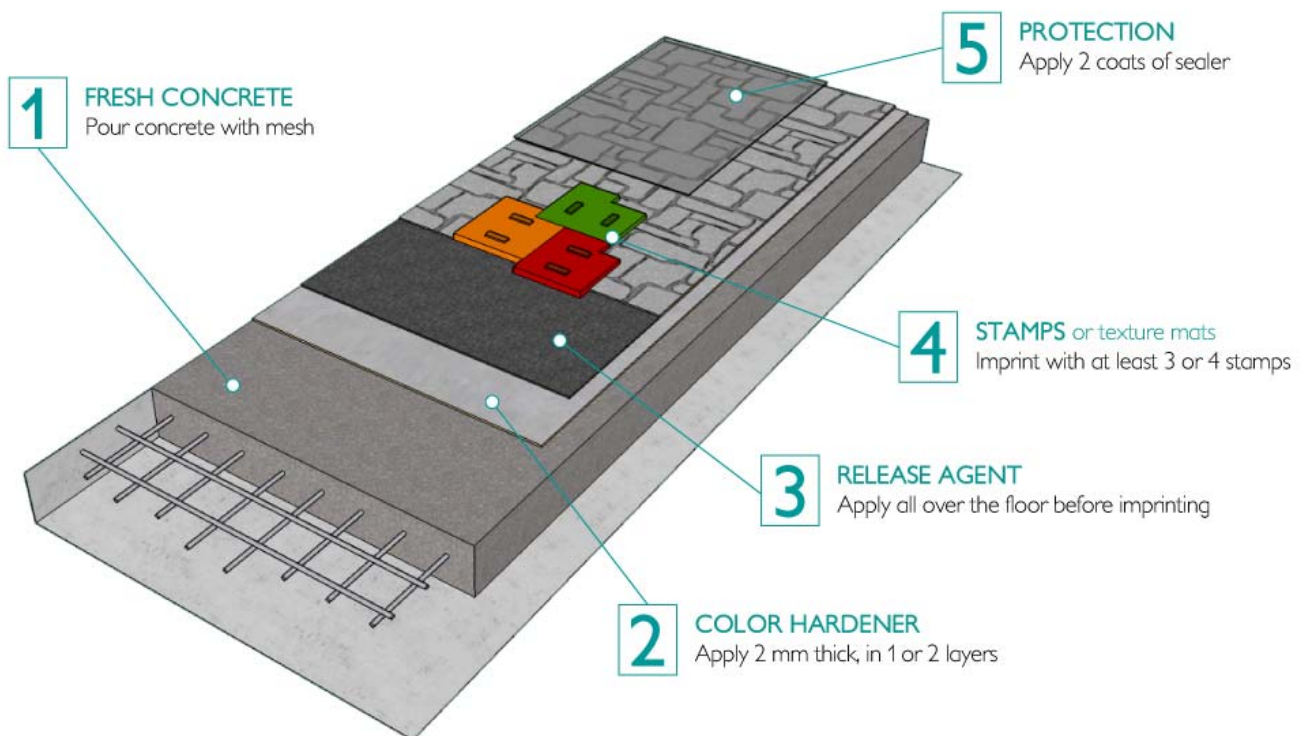
Masters Color Hardener



Masters Antique Release Agent



Masters Ecolex Sealer



Tools

- A **roller tamper** (*optional*) to depress the aggregate into the slab and brings the fat to the surface.
- A **bull float** with round ends and rotative adaptor to level ridges, fill voids, and smooth the surface in preparation for troweling.
- A **fresno trowel** to trowel the slab
- A **tampico brush** to insure an efficient distribution of powder release agent.
- A set of **aluminum handles** to fix on fresno trowel and bull float.
- A **tamper** (*optional*) to tamp texture mats and achieving the right amount of pressure.
- A **concrete edger** to produce a radius at the edge of a concrete slab.
- An **hand groover** to joint the concrete
- Some accessories (*optional*) for finishes : textured roller, "S" tool, decorative strip, touch-up roller...

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1. Pour concrete

The thickness, reinforcement and dosage of the concrete must comply with the standard of your country.

Concrete must be placed within half an hour of mixing. Place your concrete into your formwork. A roller tamper can be used to quickly level slab for final finishing and push down exposed aggregates. Don't forget to respect the slopes necessary for the flow of water.

Bull floating should be done immediately after "screeding". This process should be finished before excess moisture or bleedwater appear on the surface.

2. Apply color hardener

After the concrete reaches the right stage of plasticity (generally when no bleedwater is on the surface), broadcast **Masters Color Hardener** by throwing it onto the surface from waist level or a bit lower to minimize the amount of material that drifts into the air. Work from the middle of the slab and back toward the edge forms to avoid a heavy buildup of color hardener on the edges. After the first shake of color hardener has been applied to the surface, give it five to 10 minutes to absorb water from the concrete and then float it into the surface. Right after bull floating the first application of color hardener, follow the same steps and apply a second layer of hardener to ensure complete coverage.

3. Apply release agent

Right before you stamp, apply **Masters Antique Release Agent** with a dry tampico brush in a flicking motion. Avoid too much buildup, which could interfere with the imprint texture, especially lighter textures.

Powder release agent serve two important purposes: it imparts subtle color contrast while acting as a bond breaker to prevent the stamping mats or skins from sticking to the concrete and disturbing the imprint texture.

4. Stamping

Before you begin stamping, check to see that the concrete has reached the right stage of plasticity. If you begin stamping too soon, the concrete won't be firm enough to support the weight of workers or hold a well-defined imprint. If you start stamping too late, not only will stamping require more effort, you'll produce little or no texture with the stamps, especially as you reach the end of the job. Press your fingers into the concrete surface at several locations on the slab.

Start stamping by placing the stamps in the same sequence that you placed and finished the concrete. The stamping crew should complete the first row of stamps before moving on to the next one. Impress the stamps into the surface by walking on the tools, possibly followed by a light tamping.

It could be necessary to do some detailing with a hand chisel, roller, or texture skin to remove displaced cement paste that comes up through the joints between stamps, to fix any blurred pattern lines, and to correct grout joints where the stamp wasn't tamped down with sufficient pressure.

5. Protection

Wash off the residual release agent-a minimum of one day (and in some cases two or three days later, depending on weather conditions).

The final step is to apply sealer to the concrete. To obtain maximum adhesion and long-term durability, be sure to apply the sealer to a clean, dry surface. One of the most effective techniques for applying sealer is to combine both spraying and rolling, especially when the stamped pattern has deep grout lines. Be careful not to apply the sealer too heavily, which could trap moisture in the slab.

To avoid a slippery effect when the surface is wet, it is possible to incorporate Non Slip powder to the first coat of sealer.

Stamping tips

- Be sure that the person walking on and moving the stamps is wearing clean boots or work shoes, free of any pebbles, mud, or other debris.
- Avoid hot or windy days.
- Avoid pattern repetition, especially with patterns that mimic natural materials such as stone or slate. A random composition will look much more realistic.

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