# IDEAL WORK-DYES

## Water-Based and Solvent-Based transparent coloring agents

## DESCRIPTION

IDEAL WORK dyes are solutions of extremely fine transparent coloring agents designed to penetrate existing concrete; color-hardened concrete and cement-based toppings, offered in both Water-Based and Solvent-Based formulations. They can be used for a multitude of other applications such as diamond polished concrete, beautiful faux finishes for cement-based wall treatments, to enhance chemically stained concrete, as well as a tinting agent for sealers.
IDEAL WORK dyes water-based and solvent-based are offered in a ready-to-use range of colors. All of the water-based colors are compatible with each other and can be blended together to create an unlimited range of color variations, as well as the solvent- based formulations being compatible with each other to blend together. IDEAL WORK Dyes are packaged from sample kits to five-gallon containers. When used properly, dyes can produce a similar look to that of an acid stained floor. They can also be used on problem areas where acid stain has not reacted or penetrated the surface as well as to accent chemically stained floors or walls. The colors obtained with IDEAL WORK dyes broaden the artisan's range of color possibilities that cannot be achieved when using a traditional acid stain. Interesting effects can be achieved when using a multitude of colors on your floor as well as faux finishing techniques. On regular concrete or toppings, it is mandatory to seal the dyed floor to lock the color in and prevent leaching. On polished concrete it is recommended to apply one to two light coats of IDEAL WORK Polish Guard to help enhance and preserve the color. Please refer to the technical guideline for IDEAL WORK Polish Guard for application techniques and coverage rates.

## BENEFITS

- Intense colors
- Extremely easy to use
- Specialty techniques can be used
- Broad range of colors
- Can be used in conjunction with acid stained floors to both fix problem areas as well as to accent
- Great for diamond polished concrete
- Can be used alone as a primary coloring agent
- Conveniently packaged sizes

## LIMITATIONS

The life expectancy of a dyed floor is a function of the amount of traffic and abrasion the floor is subject to. On-going maintenance should periodically be considered to preserve the dyed floor. In high traffic areas the use of a high performance coating or several coats of a maintainer over the top of a previously sealed floor should be used. Dyes should be used primarily on interior surfaces since fading could occur when exposed to ultraviolet light. If used on an exterior application 5-10% color fading can be expected over time. Dripping or spilling the dye can permanently contaminate the substrate.
Care should be taken while mixing, filling sprayers and applying.
IDEAL WORK dyes cannot be used to hide surface imperfections such as patched areas or variations in the concrete since they are semi translucent.


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Dyes should not be applied to substrates colder than 40 degrees and a maximum of 90 degrees. Do not allow water-based dye to freeze. Solvent-based dye has an aggressive odor and is flammable.

## SURFACE PREPARATION

It is important that the concrete substrate is clean and free of contaminants such as dry wall spillage, dry wall dust and dirt. Also, any sealers or paint will need to be stripped and cleaned from the surface prior to the dye application since they could act as a resist. On concrete, rotary scrubbing with a red or black pad while simultaneously squeegee vacuuming the residual is an excellent way of preparing and cleaning the surface. On some toppings, rotary scrubbing may be too aggressive and a simple damp mop may be sufficient to clean the surface prior to the dye application. If diamond polishing, it is usually best to apply IDEAL WORK dyes somewhere between 200 to 400 grit resin bonded diamonds depending on the equipment and diamond being used. Applying the Water-Based dye after a higher grit than 400 diamond has been used could effect the penetration and absorption of water-based dye. Generally, the solvent based dye is best applied at the 400 grit phase of polished concrete however, in some cases the dye can be applied at higher grits such as 800 to 1500. A test sample should be conducted to check compatibility. Make sure to block off entry or exit points so unwanted personnel or other trades do not walk on the cleaned or dyed floor.

## MIXING

***Water-Based:*** IDEAL WORK water-based dyes are packaged ready to use. Before use, make sure the lid is tight and turn the container upside down gently agitating the bottle / container to make sure nothing has settled to the bottom. If shaken too aggressively, the material could foam up. To achieve softer or lighter colors, IDEAL WORK water-based dyes can be thinned with clean water. Unless a desired effect is trying to be achieved, you should never dilute the dye more than three parts water to one part dye. On polished concrete, do not dilute water-based dye. Test sampling is imperative so you know the shade of color obtained and how readily the floor is accepting the dye. Try to conduct a representative test sample on the actual floor in an area that will not be seen such as a closet or storeroom.

***Solvent-Based:*** IDEAL WORK solvent-based dyes are also packaged ready to use. Before use, make sure the lid is tight and turn the container upside down gently agitating the bottle / container to make sure nothing has settled to the bottom. Solvent-based dye can be thinned with either lacquer thinner or acetone. IDEAL WORK solvent based dye should not be thinned more than five parts thinner to one part dye unless a certain affect is trying to be achieved. Higher thinning can greatly jeopardize the color intensity. On polished concrete, it is recommended to use the dye un-thinned. If thinning is required for a lighter color, thin at a rate of one part thinner to one part dye. Test sampling is imperative so you know the shade of color obtained and how readily the floor is accepting the dye. Try to conduct a representative test sample on the actual floor in an area that will not be seen such as a closet or storeroom.

## APPLICATION

***Water-Based:*** Surfaces should be clean and dry before the application of IDEAL WORK water-based dye. Always mask off surrounding areas so that UN wanted dye does not contaminate adjoining areas such as painted walls, masonry walls of adjoining concrete. This is especially important if there is exposed finished wood such as cabinets. Test sampling is key prior to applying

dye on the actual project so the installer knows specifically how the substrate is accepting the dye.
Water-based dye can be applied on small areas with artist's brushes or traditional chip brushes. On smooth surfaces, color washed appearances can be achieved simply by ragging dye on the surface in a random motion. On small borders, the use of a tile sponge can be used. On open areas, the use of a pump-up type sprayer combined with one additional person massaging the dye into the surface with a micro fiber applicator or a rayon mop is an effective way of applying the dye. Try and maintain a wet edge when working large areas. On excessively wide areas, use contraction, isolation or construction joints as starting and stopping points. Try not to puddle the material during the application. Site conditions such as air movement, humidity and temperature can all factor in to how the floor will accept dye. Different profiles such as polished, hard troweled, sand blasted or floated will greatly influence the final color of dye. Layering colors upon color is a great way to achieve additional variation. It is imperative to practice techniques for a better understanding of what can be achieved using IDEAL WORK water-based dyes.

***Solvent-Based:*** Surfaces should be clean and dry before the application of IDEAL WORK solvent-based dye. Always mask off surrounding areas so that UN wanted dye does not contaminate adjoining areas such as painted walls, masonry walls of adjoining concrete. This is especially important if there is exposed finished wood such as cabinets. Test sampling is key prior to applying dye on the actual project so the installer knows specifically how the substrate is accepting the dye. Solvent-based dyes are best applied using pump up sprayers or high volume low-pressure sprayers. Although on small areas such as borders and small saw cut design areas solvent-based dyes can be brush applied, it is best applied with a sprayer. If brushing, you must work quickly or brush strokes will appear because of the accelerated drying time. When spraying, use a professional chemical resistant sprayer with a conical tip (cone) for spraying since a fan tip is more likely to produce spray lines. Have an empty bucket close by so that when you need to stop the spray pattern you can put the spray tip into the bucket, which will help prevent splatters. Since solvents can affect the life of the sprayer and its components, immediately after spraying, flush the sprayer with clean water running it through the wand to extend the life of the sprayer. Consult with the Decorative Concrete Institute for the recommended sprayer to use.

**Note:** when using either Water-Based or solvent based dyes during the polishing process on polished concrete, the dry method of polishing produces better results since wet polishing could reactivate the dye causing them to bleed.

## CLEANING

***Water-Based:*** If Water-Based dye is applied in the proper manner, minimal clean up is necessary. If puddled or over applied, a residual residue could be left behind that could affect the adhesion of a sealer. Only if necessary, **lightly damp** mop the surface with a rung out damp mop. Excessive water could cause the dye to reactivate and bleed. Dusty footprints or dust can simply be lightly sponged off.

***Solvent-Based:*** If solvent-based dye was applied in the proper manner, minimal clean up is necessary. Because of the accelerated drying times when using solvent based dyes, sealing can usually commence with in one hour after application of dye.

## SEALING

It is imperative the first coat of sealer be spray applied with an airless sprayer or pressurized pump sprayer. The first coat of sealer is considered a prime coat, which helps lock in the dye. Just brushing or rolling on the first coat could cause the dyes to bleed. Both Water-Based and solvent-based sealers are compatible with IDEAL WORK Dyes. For best results when sealing, follow the manufacturers recommendations on application methods and coverage rates. When using acrylic sealers, multiple thin coats are better than one thick coat. High performance coatings can be used over IDEAL WORK dyes however, consider locking the dye in with a first coat of Water-Based or 100% solids epoxy. Applying your first coat with a solvent-based urethane could cause the dyes to bleed. It is recommended that acrylic sealers be maintained with a traditional mop down floor polish. Floor polish (sometimes referred to as waxing) will help preserve and extend the life of your floor.

## COVERAGE RATES

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## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

IDEAL WORK solvent-based dyes are highly flammable. Great care should be taken when using this product! Protective gear such as approved respirator, safety glasses, protective gloves, etc. Solvent-based dyes will produce vapors that are highly flammable. Make sure rooms are well ventilated. Open windows and use fans to achieve air movement. Make absolutely certain no source of open flame is present. Pilot lights, heaters, cigarettes, and electric tools should not be used or turned off until any and all fumes do not exist.

## WARRANTY

IDEAL WORK dyes are warranted to be of uniform quality within manufacturing tolerances. IDEAL WORK dyes are recommended for use by installers experienced and trained in the use of these products. The manufacturer has no control over the use of this product; therefore, no warranty, expressed or implied, is or can be made to either the affects or results of such use.

## STORAGE

When stored in a cool and dry place in the original closed bucket, the product lasts for about 12 months.

## HEALTH CAUTIONS

***Water-Based:*** May be irritating to the eyes and skin. May be harmful if inhaled, absorbed through the skin, or swallowed. During application process use protective eye wear, proper respirator and protective gloves.

***Solvent-Based:*** Contents are flammable. Vapors may cause flash fires. Keep away from heat, sparks and open flames. Keep work area well-ventilated, turn off all pilot lights, flames, heaters, stoves, and any other sources of ignition. During application process use protective eye wear, proper respirator and protective gloves.

**IMPORTANT:**
All information contained herein are based on the best practical or laboratory tests. It is customer's responsibility to check that the product is suitable for the use he intends to. The manufacturer declines all responsibility for the results of false applications. It is recommended to perform always a test on small surfaces before its application. This technical sheet avoids and substitutes the previous ones. Data can be modified at every time. We remind you that the products by Ideal Work are made for professional use and that Ideal Work provides for periodical trainings of its customer who ask for it. Who uses these products being not qualified for it, does it under proper risk.

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