

TOP-CAST® Series

Micro-etch surface retarder

Chryso
Decorative
Concrete

03/14/2025

DESCRIPTION

TOP-CAST® is a water-based, top-surface retarder which does not require covering with plastic for protection. It is available in 12 depths of etch, each one colour and number coded for safety and convenience.

ADVANTAGES

- Comprehensive range of etch depths
- Excellent depth of etch control
- Colour coded products
- Heavily pigmented for ease of application
- Excellent coverage rates
- Solvent free, odorless
- Heat resistance up to 65°C (150°F)

Method of Use

Dosage

- In preparation for placing of concrete, protect all curbs, borders, adjacent stones, pavers, etc. with a coat of TOP-CAST® SS-100 surface protectant. Allow coating to dry before placing concrete. Place concrete and float or trowel finish. Alternatively, screed away excess water, and hand seed extra stone into top surface, if desired. Finish with a Darby trowel to keep concrete pores open for surface retarder application.
- Mix TOP-CAST thoroughly before application. After mixing it is recommended to pour through a paint strainer or fine sieve when filling sprayers. Apply TOP-CAST® surface retarder uniformly to the wet concrete after the initial bleed water rises to the surface. Spray with a low-pressure sprayer (plastic preferred) until the surface has a complete hiding coat. Do not apply too sparingly. Use water for clean up. Once dry (1-2 hours after application), TOP-CAST® provides good protection against intermittent rain and does not require additional cover.
- **Removal:** Wash off with high-pressure water. Actual removal time for the desired appearance varies based upon concrete mix design, finishing technique, weather conditions and grade of TOP-CAST used. The retarded cement matrix can be removed as early as 4 hours and up to 16 hours depending on conditions. Complete your project with one of the products from the TOP-CAST® decorative finish system.

Additional Usage Recommendations

- Ideal for cast-in-place flatwork and the top surface of precast panels. The wide selection of grades available provides a comprehensive range of effects, from a simulated light acid wash or sand blast finish up to full exposure of 32 mm (1 1/4 in.) aggregate.
- TOP-CAST surface retarder will cover approximately 4.9–7.4 m²/L (200–300 ft²/gal).

The information contained in this technical data sheet is given to the best of our knowledge and the result from extensive testing - which were conducted in order to remain as objective as possible. However, it cannot, in any case, be considered as a warranty involving our liability in case of misuse or any different use of our products, other than those from the "Application" paragraph of this technical data sheet. Some application tests should be carried out before using the product to ensure that the methods of use and conditions of application of the product are satisfactory. Our technical assistance is at the disposal of the users.

TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

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Performances

- Each product grade creates a unique degree of reaction to produce the desired effect on the surface mortar. The retarding chemicals diffuse into the paste during the first hours of curing and slow down the cement hydration reaction. During the next 16+ hours of curing the bulk concrete hardens, except where the cement matrix has been retarded. The retarded surface can then be removed by water or pressurized water, revealing the aggregate in the concrete mix.

Process Component

- Always prepare small test panels to determine the most suitable grade to obtain the desired depth of etch. When placing test samples, always simulate job site conditions as well as mix designs to be used on the project to establish the proper grade selection and procedures.

CHARACTERISTICS

Product Nature	Liquid
Shelf life	12 months

PACKAGING

- 20 L bucket

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PRECAUTIONS

- TOP-CAST® surface retarder has a shelf life of two years from date of manufacture in closed original containers.
- Store out of direct sunlight and between 10°C - 32°C (50°F - 90°F). Do not allow to freeze.

SAFETY

- [Top-Cast 003 SDS \(English\)](#)
- [Top-Cast 005 SDS \(English\)](#)
- [Top-Cast 050 SDS \(English\)](#)
- [Top-Cast 075 SDS \(English\)](#)
- [Top-Cast 100 SDS \(English\)](#)
- [Top-Cast 125 SDS \(English\)](#)

Prior to any use, please read carefully the Safety data Sheet.

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Approx. Depth of Etch*	Grade
Light Acid Wash	01 White
Acid Etch	03 Light Violet
Sand Blast	05 Powder Blue Violet
Up to 6.5 mm (1/4 in.)	15 Yellow
3.0 to 6.5 mm (1/8 to 1/4 in.)	25 Beige
3.0 to 9.5 mm (1/8 to 3/8 in.)	50 Canary Green
3.0 to 9.5 mm (1/8 to 3/8 in.)	75 Blue
9.5 to 13 mm (3/8 to 1/2 in.)	100 Gray
13 to 16 mm (3/8 to 5/8 in.)	125 Pink
13 to 16 mm (3/8 to 5/8 in.)	150 Green
16 to 25 mm (5/8 to 1 in.)	200 Salmon
25 to 38 mm (1 to 1 1/2 in.)	250 Orange
*355 kg/m ³ (546 lbs/yd ³) of cementitious	

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