



EUCLID CHEMICAL

BEST PRACTICES

INCRETE EZ EXPOSE

SURFACE RETARDER FOR EXPOSED AGGREGATE FINISHES



QUICK TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Talk to Your Ready Mix

Producer: Let them know you're exposing aggregate—many have mix designs tailored specifically for this application.

Timing is Everything: As with all concrete work, proper timing is critical. Apply EZ EXPOSE sooner rather than later, and don't delay removal. EZ EXPOSE is a retarder, not a "stopper." The concrete will set if left too long.

Practice Makes Perfect: Experience matters. If you're new to exposed aggregate, a trial run is highly recommended.

Watch the Weather: Hot, dry conditions accelerate setting time—be prepared to remove EZ EXPOSE sooner in these environments.

Mind Your Knee Boards: Knee boards must be made of non-absorbent material, as wood boards can leave stains. Impressions by knee boards can push aggregate below the surface, causing uneven exposure.

INCRETE EZ EXPOSE is a water-based surface retarder that creates consistent, high-quality exposed aggregate finishes. Available in six grades, it delivers everything from light sandblast textures to deep exposures up to 1 inch (2.5 cm). The pigmented formula ensures even, visible coverage for reliable results.

BEST PRACTICES FOR ALL EZ EXPOSE PROJECTS

Achieve consistent, beautiful exposed aggregate finishes with these expert tips.

► START BY PLANNING YOUR FINISH.

Determine the desired exposure level, aggregate size, and color. Today's options go beyond standard pea gravel—decorative aggregates such as glass, mirror, mother of pearl, seashells, and ceramics can be seeded into the surface for custom visual effects.

► ALWAYS CREATE A MOCKUP.

A sample panel using your actual mix, color, and etch level should be reviewed and approved by the owner or architect before moving into full-scale installation.

► BE SURE TO USE THE RIGHT CONCRETE MIX.

Coordinate with your ready-mix supplier, as many offer mix designs specifically formulated for exposed aggregate finishes. The etch depth is also key: for best results, it should be no more than one-third the average size of your chosen aggregate.

► USE OUR EXPERTISE.

Work closely with your Euclid Chemical field representative for project-specific guidance. If you're incorporating integrally colored concrete, Euclid Chemical offers 35 standard shades and can custom match competitor colors to meet your design needs.

► TIMING IS CRITICAL.

It should be sprayed while surface moisture is still present—typically around the time you'd broom-finish an exterior slab. The thumbprint test is a helpful indicator of slab readiness. Once applied, EZ EXPOSE begins curing within 30 minutes, forming a wax-like skin that protects the surface, even in light rain, eliminating the need for poly covers required by many other products.



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BEST PRACTICES CONTINUED

► USE CORRECT SPRAYING TECHNIQUE.

Ensure uniform results with the right sprayer and application technique. Each gallon of EZ EXPOSE covers approximately 175 to 300 ft² (16 to 28 m²), depending on surface texture and application rate. For optimal results, apply with a professional-grade pump sprayer fitted with a 0.3 to 0.5 GPM tip. The pigmented formula makes it easy to ensure complete, even coverage across the slab.

► TIME REMOVAL FOR BEST RESULTS.

Removal timing is influenced by temperature and humidity. If you're removing within a few hours, use a garden hose, deck brush, and water. For overnight or up to 24-hour removal, a pressure washer or swing scrubber with water will yield the best results. Keep in mind that delaying removal too long may result in lighter-than-intended exposure.

► SEAL AND PROTECT THE SURFACE.

For lighter etch levels, a penetrating sealer from Euclid's Baracade line is recommended. For deeper exposures, enhance and protect the surface with a decorative acrylic sealer such as BrownTone CS/CS 350, formulated specifically to provide color enhancement and gloss to exposed aggregate.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR
SAND WASH & SAND BLAST FINISHES

For optimal results, use a concrete mix with a minimum of 6 sacks of Portland cement per cubic yard (564 lbs cement per yd³/334 kg of cement per m³) and include #57 aggregate in a "sanded" mix containing at least 50% sand. Maintain a consistent water-to-cement ratio of 0.50, especially on multi-pour projects to ensure uniform appearance.

Once the concrete is placed, use a jitterbug or roller to press the aggregate down and bring more paste (or "cream") to the surface. Be mindful around edges to achieve a uniform finish across the entire slab. After placement, float and trowel the surface to a smooth, level finish. Keep in mind that any surface imperfections—such as marks from edging tools, trowels, or jointers—can become visible in the final product, especially with lighter etches. These imperfections are less pronounced with coarser exposures. Wood or magnesium floats are recommended, as steel trowels can overly close the surface and trap bleed water.

Apply EZ EXPOSE while the slab still retains surface moisture, typically at the same time you would broom-finish an exterior slab. This timing is critical to ensure the product performs as intended.

GUIDELINES FOR EXPOSING
PEA GRAVEL AND DECORATIVE STONE

When broadcasting aggregate onto the surface, you may need to place the concrete slightly below the top of the formwork to accommodate the added material. If the aggregate is already mixed in the truck, form and pour the slab as usual. Use a concrete mix with a minimum of 6 sacks of Portland cement per cubic yard (564 lbs cement per yd³ / 334 kg of cement per m³) and maintain a consistent water-to-cement ratio of 0.50 throughout the project.

Avoid using a jitterbug, roller, or excessive floating, as these techniques can push the aggregate too deep. For optimal exposure, the stone should remain close to the surface, but be fully embedded in cement cream to ensure proper bond and finish quality.

Take care to finish edges in the same manner as the main surface to ensure consistent exposure across the entire slab. Eliminate marks left by tools such as edgers, jointers, and trowels, and aim for a smooth, even surface prior to application.

Apply EZ EXPOSE while the slab still holds surface moisture, typically around the time you would broom finish the concrete. Proper timing is essential for achieving uniform, professional results.