

Sealer Type	How They Work	Primary Applications*	Type of Finish	Performance
<p>Penetrating sealers</p> <p><i>(includes silanes, siloxanes, and silicates)</i></p>	<p>Penetrate and react chemically within the capillaries of the concrete to shield against moisture penetration and deicing chemicals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exterior concrete surfaces subject to corrosion and freeze-thaw • Where a natural, matte finish is desired 	<p>Provide invisible protection without changing the surface appearance or leaving a sheen.</p>	<p>Provide excellent protection against outdoor exposure conditions. Most products are also breathable, allowing moisture vapor to escape.</p>
<p>Acrylics</p>	<p>Form a thin protective film on the concrete surface. Available in both solvent- and water-based formulations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both exterior and interior concrete • On projects where easy application and economy is important • To enhance the beauty of colored, stamped or exposed-aggregate concrete • On fast-track projects, since acrylics often dry to the touch within an hour 	<p>Available in a range of sheen levels. Solvent-based acrylics generally enhance color better than water-based products.</p>	<p>Provide good protection against water and chloride intrusion, but usually wear faster than polyurethanes and epoxies. Solvent-based acrylics generally perform better than water-based products for outdoor use. On indoor surfaces, softer acrylic sealers usually require regular maintenance with several coats of a sacrificial floor finish, or wax, to prevent wear and black heel marks.</p>
<p>Polyurethanes</p>	<p>Form a high-build protective film on the concrete</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both exterior and interior concrete • On floors in high-traffic 	<p>Available in a range of sheen levels. Finish is</p>	<p>Nearly twice as thick as acrylic sealers, and produce a very durable chemical-</p>

	<p>surface. Available in both solvent- and water-based formulations.</p>	<p>areas, to provide good resistance to scuffs and staining</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance the beauty of colored, stamped or exposed-aggregate concrete • Concrete countertops 	<p>transparent and non-yellowing.</p>	<p>and abrasion-resistant finish. Most urethanes are moisture intolerant until they cure, so no water should be present on the surface when the sealer is applied.</p>
<p>Epoxies</p>	<p>Form a high-build protective film on the concrete surface. Most are two-component products mixed prior to application.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On floors in high-traffic areas • Cement-based overlays • Concrete countertops • May yellow with UV exposure, so generally limited to interior use 	<p>Available clear or pigmented, if you wish to add color. Most products impart a glossy finish.</p>	<p>Produce a hard, long-wearing, abrasion-resistant finish. Also offer excellent water repellence, but some products are impermeable and could trap moisture in the concrete.</p>