



# Hardscape Chemical Certification

## RE-SEALING GUIDE

### When should pavers be re-sealed?

- Water no longer beads on the surface.
- Or
- Color enhancement / gloss appearance has diminished.

### Preparation:

Pavers must always be cleaned first to determine what action should be taken. Apply a paver specific cleaner or other liquid detergent with a low pressure sprayer. Rinse with a pressure washer (1500 PSI minimum, 3000+ PSI is best), a garden hose will work but will take a lot longer.

### Key Questions Before Re-Sealing

#### A. What brand of sealer was last used?

1. If it was not the same, you need to determine if it is compatible with original sealer.
  - a. Obtain a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) from the supplier that defines the components to help determine if it is compatible with.
  - b. Contact local suppliers or sealer manufacturer if help is needed in this determination.
2. If you do not know the brand of sealer or if it is not an acrylic solvent sealer, Do not consider resealing unless you first test the effects on a small inconspicuous sacrificial area.

#### B. How much sealer was used previously?

1. Two coats applied with a roller should cover approximately 60 to 80 square feet per gallon depending on the sand joint width and coarseness of the roller.
2. Two coats applied with a sprayer should cover approximately 100 to 130 square feet per gallon.
3. Using less than the recommended amount will shorten the life of the sealing effects and may cause an uneven appearance.

#### C. When was the area last sealed?

1. If less than 5 years and the appropriate quantities of sealer were originally applied as recommended, you may only need to refresh the existing sealer with a solvent. Toluene and Toluol are the only solvents we recommend. Cleaning the pavers with detergent first and then spraying solvent liberally once they are dry will re-emulsify the acrylic, melting the surface and restoring the gloss appearance.

### Reference: RE-SEAL TIMELINE

2. If older than 5 years or not enough sealer was used on the original application, sealer diluted with 4-5 parts Toluene should be used to reseal pavers. The Toluene will reduce the percentage of solids and reduce the acrylic build-up or glazing that can eventually de-laminate the sealer from the paver surface. Straight solvent based acrylic sealers are only to be used for sealing pavers that have never been sealed.

***Prior to re-sealing, the entire area needs to be prepped and cleaned.***

### **A. PREPPING the AREA**

1. Trim back grass and other growth on, in or next to the pavers.
2. Replace damaged pavers. If the replacements were never sealed, they will need to be sealed after the cleaning steps to insure they blend in with the other pavers.

### **B. CLEANING the PAVERS**

1. Spray the entire area with liquid detergent with a low pressure sprayer. Rinse with a pressure washer (1500 PSI minimum, 3000 PSI is best), a garden hose will work but will take a lot longer.
2. If some stains are still present:
  - a. Use a liquid detergent or organic degreaser with hot water and scrubbing action to remove petroleum stains.
  - b. Stains in or under the sealer cannot be removed. Detergents or other cleaners will not penetrate existing acrylic sealers.
3. The final cleaning step is to Always pressure wash rinse with clear water, angling the spray to minimize loss of sand in the joints. If loss exceeds 3/8 inch, sweep in more when dry and carefully re-rinse the surface.
4. Secure the area during the drying period (approximately 6 to 48 hours) to insure no contamination of the surface occurs. Traffic, pets or other sources can leave a residue that will be sealed into the surface. This contamination may not be apparent until after the area dries.
5. Inspect the surface when dry, you may decide not to reseal but if a higher gloss is desired, continue on to RE-SEALING with solvent based acrylic sealers.

### **RE-SEALING with solvent based acrylic sealers**

Use a pre-diluted solvent sealer or dilute sealer as determined from answering the Key Questions on the previous page.

- Solvent if sealed recently. Always try solvent first in a small test area for desired look.
- Sealer diluted with 4-5 parts Toluene if gloss has diminished substantially.

### **C. RE-SEALING after PREPPING and CLEANING**

1. Check weather conditions. If rain is anticipated, wait until surface will have at least 12 hours drying time. Do not reseal in temperatures below 45 degrees F or 5 degrees C.
2. When using a solvent, only use toluene or toluol. You may have to call around to local commercial paint stores to locate the solvent. Do not use straight sealers except for initial sealing. When pavers are sealed too often, an acrylic buildup or glazing occurs.  
**\*\* WARNING, too many layers of sealer will cause de-lamination!**
3. Using a new, medium nap roller or a new 2 to 3 gallon low pressure solvent compatible sprayer, apply material liberally over the cleaned dry pavers, overlapping each pass 4 to 6 inches. When using a sprayer, we recommend using the least expensive solvent compatible new sprayer available.
  - a. Used sprayers and rollers may have contaminants that can mix with the solvent and get embedded in the sealer, affecting its appearance.
  - b. Solvents may cause the seal and hose of non-solvent compatible sprayers to soften and leave it unable to hold pressure.
4. Cleaning Sprayer – If solvent sealer diluted with Toluene is used, follow all steps. If solvent only, start at step c.
  - a. Pour 1 pint of solvent into sprayer and shake it around until all internal parts are soaked.
  - b. Pump up sprayer and discharge solvent back into its original container.
  - c. Hold the wand vertically and push the handle to open the valve and drain the wand of solvent.

- d. Dump any remaining solvent out of the sprayer tank.
  - e. Wipe down plunger, seals and the sprayer tank at the seal contact area.
  - f. Leave plunger out of the tank overnight to allow the vapors to escape.
  - g. Once completely dry and vapors have escaped, assemble sprayer to keep dirt out.
5. Dispose of empty containers, sprayers or rollers according to Federal, State and local regulations.
  6. Keep the area free of all traffic until the sealer has had adequate time to harden, approximately 24 hours for vehicular traffic or 12 hours for foot traffic.
  7. If the area gets wet before fully hardening and water damage occurs you may have to repeat these steps. If resealed with diluted sealer and water damage occurs, reseal with only solvent.

\*\*Check local VOC requirements before proceeding.

# TYPICAL RESIDENTIAL LONG RANGE ACRYLIC SOLVENT SEALER RE-SEALING TIMELINE

*The scenario below will vary by the amount of traffic and activity on the pavement. Heavier traffic speeds up the timeline. Wait as long as possible between coats.*

<b>1st Year</b>	2 Coats of Acrylic Solvent Sealer
<b>2nd Year</b>	Nothing
<b>3rd Year</b>	Pressure wash with soap, apply a solvent, Toluene or Toluol, this will melt the surface without build up. DO NOT Use Xylene.
<b>4th Year</b>	Nothing
<b>5th Year</b>	Apply Acrylic Solvent Sealer diluted with 4 parts Toluene or Toluol
<b>6th Year</b>	Nothing
<b>7th Year</b>	Pressure wash with soap, apply Toluene solvent.
<b>8th Year</b>	Nothing
<b>9th Year</b>	Apply Acrylic Solvent Sealer diluted with 4 parts Toluene or Toluol
<b>10th Year</b>	Nothing
<b>11th Year</b>	Pressure wash with soap, apply Toluene solvent
<b>12th Year</b>	Nothing

***Beyond 12 years consideration needs to be made for stripping the build up of sealer.***

