



C² COLOR HARD

C² Color Hard is a premeasured color concentrate specially formulated to mix with C² Hard to produce a ready-to-use color hardener. C² Color Hard is available in vibrant hues which can be used alone or in combinations for an unlimited range of shades, tints and artistic effects. Many colors are suitable for outdoor use, as well as indoor. When combined with C² Hard, C² Color Hard decorates, dustproofs and improves the abrasion-resistance of concrete floors and exterior pavements. High-speed burnish color-hardened surfaces to an attractive luster or treat them with the appropriate Crete Colors protective treatment for added luster, enhanced color, improved stain protection or protection from damage caused by de-icing salts. Supplied as a color concentrate, water-based, environmentally responsible C² Color Hard minimizes freight, handling, storage and container disposal costs.

ADVANTAGES

- Water-based, environmentally responsible C² Color Hard saves time, reduces waste and eliminates hazards associated with corrosive acid stains or highly flammable solvent-reduced dyes.
- Many C² Color Hard colors are suitable for outdoor use, even in extreme climates. See color chart.
- Layer or blend to create unlimited color and design variations.
- Great for any-age trowel-finished, ground or textured concrete. May be used over integrally colored concrete, shake-on color hardeners, acid-stained concrete or concrete colored with solvent-reduced dyes.
- VOC Compliant. Non-flammable. Non-toxic. Non-corrosive. Low odor. Suitable for use in occupied spaces. Contains no harmful acids.
- Will not etch concrete or corrode nearby metals. Will not peel or flake. No need to neutralize.
- Two coats increase color intensity and may partially mask surface imperfections.
- Easy application with low-pressure spray and push broom or microfiber pad.
- C² Color Hard floors require protective treatments before use. See "Sealing" section for details.

Limitations

- C² Color Hard is translucent. It may not hide or mask variations in the concrete.
- Some colors are intended for interior use only. See color chart.
- Not for surfaces exposed to standing water.
- Not for concrete floors polished higher than the equivalent of #200 grit resin bond diamonds. Use C² Tint for highly polished interior concrete floors.

TYPICAL TECHNICAL DATA

FORM	Colored liquid concentrate
SPECIFIC GRAVITY	1.2 – 2.0
pH	6.5 – 9.5
WT/GAL	10 – 16.5 lbs
ACTIVE CONTENT	50 -70%
TOTAL SOLIDS	50 -70%
VOC CONTENT	<100 g/L
FLASH POINT	no data
FREEZE POINT	0° C (32° F)
SHELF LIFE	1 year in tightly sealed, unopened container

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

VOC Compliance

C² Color Hard is compliant with the US Environmental Protection Agency's AIM VOC regulations.

Contact us at sales@cretecolors.com for compliance questions with individual country regulations.

SAFETY INFORMATION

Always read full label and SDS for precautionary instructions before use. Use appropriate safety equipment and job site controls during application and handling.

24-Hour Emergency Information:

INFOTRAC at +1-352-323-3500



PREPARATION

Protect people, vehicles, property and any surface not to be treated from contact with the product or over spray. Use polyethylene or other proven protective material. Avoid duct tape or other masking materials that leave adhesive residues which inhibit penetration of the color hardener.

To ensure penetration and reaction of color hardeners, the concrete surface must be clean and dry. Contaminants may prevent penetration of C² Color Hard, leaving excess pigment on the surface. Freshly placed concrete should be at least 21 days old and sufficiently cured to support the appropriate activities before beginning floor preparation and color application. DO NOT store building materials on newly placed concrete surfaces.

Remove curing compounds and other contaminants using the appropriate surface preparation cleaner.

Interior Concrete: Grind starting with #50 grit (or lower) metal bond diamonds. Smooth and level the floor to achieve the desired finish. Do not exceed #200 grit resin bond diamonds before application. Do not grind or polish after applying C² Color Hard.

Exterior Trowel-Finished or Broom-Finished Concrete: Remove any curing compounds using C² Remove. Clean the concrete with C² Safe Prep to open the surface pores and ensure more uniform coloring.

After cleaning, lightly spray random areas of the floor or pavement with clean water. If surface does not wet uniformly, more prep is needed.

Remove dust and debris using a floor scrubbing machine and fresh water. A low-pressure power washer may be used on textured or exterior surfaces. Let wet surfaces dry.

Protect new concrete from all construction activities before color-hardening. Do not store building materials on newly placed concrete surfaces. Prevent standing water.

Concrete recently treated with a penetrating water repellent or “salt screen” may not accept C² Color Hard. Always test.

Surface & Air Temperatures

For best results maintain consistent air flow and surface temperatures during application. Surface and air temperatures should be 10–32°C (50–90°F).

Equipment

Use a clean, low-pressure sprayer with a fine, conical spray pattern. Wear “spiked” shoes when walking in wet C² Color Hard.

On smooth surfaces, spread the mixed color hardener with a clean microfiber pad. Use brushes, rollers or rags for artistic effects.

On heavily textured surfaces, spray apply and then spread the color hardener with a clean brush or soft push broom, if needed.

Storage & Handling

Store in a cool, dry place. Once opened, use entire contents of the C² Color Hard per 5 liters of C² Hard. Apply within 24-hours.

Over spray and spills may be difficult or impossible to remove. Protect surfaces not set for coloring with plastic during mixing and application.

Published shelf life assumes storage of unopened C² Color Hard in a dry place. Maintain temperature of 45–100°F (7–38°C). Keep from freezing. Dispose of in accordance with local regulations.

Packaging

Pre-measured concentrate to be mixed with C² Hard.

APPLICATION

Read “Preparation” and the Safety Data Sheet before use.

ALWAYS TEST each surface before overall application. Use the following application instructions. Let the surface dry well before inspection. Floor composition and finish affect final color. Include representative imperfections in the test area to assess impact on the color-hardened concrete floor. Two coats of C² Color Hard may help mask variations.

Mixing Instructions

C² Color Hard color concentrate must be mixed with C² Hard before application. Shake the pre-measured concentrate well to mix thoroughly. Combine one shaken bottle with 5 liters of C² Hard to make ready-to-use color hardener. Mix well before and during each use. Apply within 24 hours.

When applying White C² Color Hard, two pre-measured bottles may be added to 5 liters of C² Color Hard to improve hide and color intensity. Additional care will be required to avoid streaking during application.



To **reduce** color intensity, add more C² Hard.

To **increase** color intensity, apply two coats of prepared C² Color Hard.

Typical Coverage Rates

Coverage rates are for estimating purposes only.

- 9–18 square meters per liter
- 400–800 square feet per US gal

Variations in concrete quality, porosity, job-site conditions, temperature and relative humidity affect coverage rates and dry times. Calculate the Target Coverage Rate by mixing one gallon and treating a representative area of the prepared surface. Use the following application instructions.

Application Instructions

1. Apply mixed, ready-to-use color hardener with low-pressure spray and a conical spray tip to a clean, dry, properly prepared concrete floor. Do not atomize. Wet the surface without producing puddles. Do not over apply. Two light applications produce better results than one heavy application. Over application may result in streaking. Use a small bucket or rag to collect drips when not spraying.
2. **On smooth surfaces** spread with a clean microfiber pad pre-wet with the mixed, ready-to-use color hardener. Apply in a smooth, irregular pattern to minimize streaks. Two people – one spraying, one spreading – get the best results. **On textured surfaces**, spread with a clean, soft fibered push broom.

Do not overwork or spread the product once it begins to dry. For a more mottled appearance, spray apply without spreading.

3. Let floor dry at least 1 hour. Stay off wet surfaces.
4. Repeat steps 1–3 for increased color intensity and surface hardening.
5. When dry, burnish smooth surfaces using a high-speed burnisher fitted with a #800 grit (or higher) diamond-impregnated pad. Burnishing removes excess pigments and enhances surface luster. Failure to remove excess pigments may cause color-tracking.
6. Clean the floor with an auto-scrubber and fresh water. Collect ponded water. Let surfaces dry.

Sealing

Floors receiving C² Color Hard must be sealed and protected before use. After treated surfaces have dried, apply one of the following C² protective treatments according to the application instructions published on the most current Product Data Sheet. Product Data Sheets are available anytime at www.cretecolors.com.

- C² Seal
- C² Ultra Seal

Contact Crete Colors directly for assistance in determining which sealing product is right for your project.

BEST PRACTICES

Notify all trades that the concrete surface will be the finished floor. Take extra care to prevent damage to the floor during ongoing construction.

Before application, lightly spray random areas of the concrete with clean water. If it does not wet uniformly, more prep is needed. Thoroughly neutralize and rinse acid-stained concrete before C² Color Hard application.

If grinding, grind the floor smooth and level BEFORE coloring. Do not grind after application.

Thoroughly mix C² Color Hard and C² Hard before and during each use. Apply within 24-hours. On smooth surfaces, spread C² Color Hard evenly using a microfiber pad with firm downward pressure. On textured surfaces, spray apply and then use a clean, densely packed, soft natural-fibered push broom, if needed.

Mask nearby surfaces to control color bleeding. Use shallow saw cuts to separate different colors. Keep a wet edge by dividing the floor into small working areas. Use control joints, walls and other fixed objects as termination points. When practical, stop the day's work at such a point. Sequence application to lessen traffic on wet color-hardened floors.

After drying, burnish smooth color-hardened surfaces to remove excess color and enhance surface sheen. For higher surface sheen, protect interior color-hardened surfaces with C² Seal or C² Ultra Seal.

PRODUCT DATA SHEET: C² Color Hard



Cleanup

Remove all tape and plastic sheeting as soon as practical. Before product dries, clean tools and equipment with soap and water.

Final Results

The floor is ready to use when dry. It should show reduced water absorption and the desired sheen. Maximum water resistance develops over 7 days.

During ongoing construction, protect finished floors with a breathable covering, such as kraft paper, to prevent damage.

Maintenance

Sweep the floor daily with a microfiber pad or dry dust mop. Use only maintenance cleaners and cleaning pads and/or brushes designed for finished concrete flooring.

Use C² Maintenance or C² Clean for regular maintenance cleaning. C² Maintenance contains lithium-silicate, which improves hardness and density, as well as helps preserve sheen while cleaning.

NOTE: the use of aggressive scrubbing pads, improper cleaning solutions or high pressure rinsing may damage finished concrete flooring and paving. ALWAYS TEST to ensure desired results. Contact us directly at sales@cretecolors.com for further recommendations.

WARRANTY

The information and recommendations made are based on our own research and the research of others, and are believed to be accurate. However, no guarantee of their accuracy is made because we cannot cover every possible application of our products, nor anticipate every variation encountered in masonry surfaces, job conditions and methods used.

The purchasers shall make their own tests to determine the suitability of such products for a particular purpose.

Crete Colors International warrants this product to be free from defects. *Where permitted by law, Crete Colors makes no other warranties with respect to this product, express or implied, including without limitation the implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for particular purpose.* The purchaser shall be responsible to make his own tests to determine the suitability of this product for his particular purpose. Crete Colors International's liability shall be limited in all events to supplying sufficient product to re-treat the specific areas to which defective product has been applied. Acceptance and use of this product absolves Crete Colors from any other liability, from whatever source, including liability for incidental, consequential or resultant damages whether due to breach of warranty, negligence or strict liability.

This warranty may not be modified or extended by representatives of Crete Colors, its distributors or dealers.

CUSTOMER CARE

Factory personnel are available for product, environment and job-safety assistance with no obligation. Email us at sales@cretecolors.com for technical support.

Factory-trained representatives are established in countries around the world. Contact us or visit our web site at www.cretecolors.com, for the name of the Crete Colors representative in your area.

