

# CRETARD®

Edition 08024

## Concrete surface retarder for exposed aggregates

### Description

**CRETARD** is a specialized, topically applied concrete retarder/deactivator designed for achieving precise exposed aggregate finishes. When applied to freshly poured concrete, it selectively retards the hardening of the top paste layer while maintaining the setting and strength gain of the underlying concrete. This allows for the easy removal of the top layer by pressure washing within a longer time interval, revealing the aggregates securely bonded to the hardened base.

Unlike conventional methods that require fast washing or other retarding agents, **CRETARD** controls the depth of hydration stoppage, ensuring uniform and consistent aggregate exposure. It also extends the time window for paste removal, reducing the risk of aggregate pop-out and dislodgement by allowing the concrete to cure properly.

Compared to sandblasting, it is more environmentally friendly and produces a more natural, aesthetically pleasing finish without scarring the surface or disrupting the matrix.

### Advantages

- Comprehensive range of etch depths
- Excellent depth of etch control
- Color coded products for various depths of exposures
- Heavily pigmented for ease of application
- Excellent coverage rates
- Solvent free, odorless

### Uses

Ideal for poured-in-place flatwork and the top surfaces of precast panels, this product offers a broad selection of grades, allowing for a wide range of effects. These effects can vary from a simulated light acid wash or sandblast finish to full exposure of aggregates.

### Standards & Specifications

**Code: Color : Effect**

**T10:** transparent: light acid wash

**T20:** yellow: Acid etch

**T30:** orange: Sand blast

**T40:** pink: up to 6.5 mm exposure

≈ 1 g/Cm<sup>3</sup>

**Density**

**Acidity**

Highly acidic

### Package

**CRETARD** surface retarder is supplied in 20L Jerricans (other sizes maybe available upon request).

**CRETARD** surface retarder will cover approximately 4.9–7.4 m<sup>2</sup> /L

### Application Instructions

It is recommended to prepare small test panels to accurately determine the appropriate grade required to achieve the desired etch depth. When creating these test samples, it is essential to replicate actual job site conditions and utilize the same mix designs intended for the project. This ensures the correct grade selection and application procedures are established.

### Application

- Prior to pouring the concrete, take necessary precautions to protect all curbs, borders, adjacent stones, pavers, and similar elements.
- Once the concrete is poured, it should be floated or troweled to achieve the desired finish.
- Alternatively, excess water can be screeded away, and additional stone can be hand-seeded into the top surface if a more textured appearance is preferred.

- Final finishing with a Darby trowel is recommended to keep the concrete pores open, facilitating optimal surface retarder application.
- Before application, thoroughly mix **CRETARD** to ensure uniformity.
- After mixing, it is advisable to strain the mixture through a paint strainer or fine sieve when filling sprayers to eliminate any potential clumps.
- Once the initial bleed water has risen to the surface of the wet concrete, apply **CRETARD** uniformly across the area.
- Utilize a low-pressure sprayer, preferably made of plastic, to achieve a complete hiding coat, ensuring that the product is not applied too sparingly.

#### **Removal**

- The retarded cement matrix should be removed using high-pressure water.
- The optimal timing for removal to achieve the desired finish is influenced by several factors, including the concrete mix design, finishing techniques employed, prevailing weather conditions, and the specific grade of **CRETARD** applied.
- Depending on these variables, the retarded surface layer can be effectively washed off as early as 1 hour after application.
- A soft brush can be used to facilitate the removal of the un-hydrated cement.
- The exposed aggregate surface must be very well cleaned by means of water to avoid any further surface discoloration caused by the acidity of **CRETARD**. Neutralization may be done using soda ash solution.
- Don't disturb the aggregates by hard brushing.
- After finishing it is recommended to protect the newly exposed surface using an appropriate sealer.

#### **Health and safety**

**CRETARD** should not come into contact with food, mouth, skin or eyes during application. Always wear safety goggles, dust mask and gloves. If skin contact occurs, wash thoroughly with clean water. Should eye contact occur, rinse immediately with plenty of clean warm water for 15 minutes and seek medical advice. If accidentally swallowed, drink 2 cups of clean water and seek medical advice. Keep away from children reach.

#### **Storage & shelf life**

**CRETARD** must be stored in closed containers between + 5 C and + 35 C and protected from frost and direct sunlight. **CRETARD** surface retarder has a shelf life of two years from date of manufacture if stored according to these conditions and in the original unopened containers.

It is advisable that **CRETARD** surface retarder should be stirred, or mixed before use.

#### **Technical support**

For any technical support, please consult our technical office or representatives.

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