

FixCrete®

Use and Maintenance Manual for FixCrete®

FixCrete® concrete is a natural material with its characteristic features. Its colour differs through the surface area and also each crafted piece is different from the previous one. It changes while using, its look does not remain the same. It can also contain small pores and microcracks which create the source of the original aesthetics of concrete and form its distinctive character.

Mechanical Resistance

Objects of FixCrete® with a surface treatment show high firmness and hardness of the surface, although abrasives and abrasive materials cannot be used on it – it would cause its permanent damaging. FixCrete®, like other natural rocks (such as granite, marble, etc.), is processed, ground and polished by diamond or steel tools. And what can be polished by these hard and rough materials, it can be also scratched or even destroyed by them.

We recommend that you avoid direct contact of such materials and sharp objects (e.g. knives) with concrete surface, because it could damage its protective layer. While cutting etc., use suitable pads (wooden or plastic). Soft metals, such as tin, lead or aluminum, are not recommended to direct contact with concrete as they can scratch and leave marks on the concrete surface. Never overload the product and do not expose it to impact loads.

Thermal resistance

Objects of FixCrete® with a surface treatment resist short-term temperatures up to 240°C (464 °F), however to maintain their long-term surface quality, it is reasonable to expose them to such temperatures as rarely as possible.

Always use a suitable wooden or plastic pad while putting a hot object (pot etc.) on the concrete surface.

Chemical resistance

Similar to other natural or artificial rocks, also concrete is a porous material that needs to be surface-treated. Objects of FixCrete® are protected with vapor-permeable sealer specially developed for this type of concrete. It protects concrete in its structure, not being just a coating along the surface. Coatings are not particularly suitable because of their low mechanical resistance and absolute closure of the surface – that would prevent breathability and cause problematic surface defects repairs.

FixCrete® with a surface treatment shows low liquid absorbance. Extreme water exposure (more than 24 hours of continuous contact) may cause that the surface turns darker. However, this is not a permanent change, thanks to the treatment permeability, the surface returns to its original state short after the load is finished. In case of impermeable surface treatments, the moisture penetration can cause their absolute destruction.

The surface is not recommended for long period exposure to soapy water and detergents or other hydroxide-based substances. FixCrete® also exhibits a good resistance to aggressive substances commonly found in households such as vinegars, juices, wine, ketchup, mustard and more. However, we do not recommend long-term (more than 24 hours) exposure to such substances. In any case, do not expose it to solvents, thinners, inorganic acids etc.

Usage

According to the information on FixCrete® mentioned above, we recommend you to follow these instructions to ensure long-lasting product life

- avoid contact of sharp and hard objects with the concrete surface; while cutting, chopping etc. always use suitable wooden or plastic pads
- do not directly expose the surface to high temperatures (hot pots without any pad etc.)
- while manipulating with soft metals such as tin, lead and aluminum make sure not to scratch them with concrete and thus leave marks on its surface
- while spilling undesirable liquids to the concrete surface, especially acids (vinegar, lemon juice, wine), strong hydroxides and other aggressive substances, remove them immediately with a damp cloth or sponge
- in case of washbasins, use a suitable soap dispenser – a wall mounted soap dispenser or a dispenser on the legs with a distance from the concrete surface; thanks to this, a moisture does not stick between the concrete surface and the container (long-term exposure to soapy water may damage the protection layer)
- in case of tables, loungers or other products located in exterior, do not cover them with any sheet even during winter; a moisture that non-invasively penetrates the surface needs a space for evaporating

Cleaning

Rinse and gently wash the product with a cloth or a sponge with the usual detergent (e.g. degreasing agent). Never use any scourers, rough sponges, abrasives or chemical cleaners (thinners, limescale removers, hydroxide-based detergents etc.) to clean the surface.

For the surface polishing use a damp cloth, eventually with some alcohol-based polish

Reparations and refurbishments

Due to use, FixCrete® elements with a surface treatment can wear out at exposed areas. Scratches, micro rifts and pigment surface changes may occur, especially if the recommendations are not followed.

Some of these defects can be removed or retouched, deal such cases always with the manufacturer directly. Larger mechanical damages, such as broken parts, can also be repaired. However, the retouching effects the final form of the product and the original look cannot be then guaranteed.