**SPECCRETE® DRY-SHAKE COLOR HARDENER**

**CONCRETE SURFACE TREATMENT**

- The Dry-Shake Color Hardener Series is available in 24 shades
- Colors can be inter-mixed to create multiple effects
- Creates a denser, more wear resistant surface with vibrant or subtle colors
- Provides high opacity and a richer cement paste for stamping and texturizing

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Note: Examples shown here were applied to a light colored cement base. This color chart is for approximation purposes only. The actual colors obtained may vary from this chart due to variations in jobsite conditions, application technique, water/cement ratio of the mix, or in the base concrete components themselves (cement, sand, aggregates). Concrete Earth recommends that a test slab be placed for job site approval before full project scale up.
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PRODUCT DESCRIPTION: Speccrete® Dry-Shake Color Hardener is a ready to use, surface treatment for coloring and hardening freshly placed concrete slabs, toppings or plasters. A blend of select, non-metallic mineral aggregates, pure metallic oxide pigments, cementitious binders and special wetting admixtures that allow moisture to completely distribute throughout the topping for improved bond. Speccrete® Dry Shake Color Hardener is a long lasting, topically applied colorant that can be used to create beautiful and unusual hardscapes, unique and durable commercial flooring, or as an alternative base color for concrete staining. Speccrete® Dry Shake Color Hardener can also be used as an accent color in combination with integrally colored concrete to create varied “marbled” highlights or two tone effects. Typical uses include: floors, sidewalks, decks, driveways and stamped concrete.

BENEFITS:
• ALLOWS LOWER MATERIAL COST COMPARED TO INTEGRALLY PIGMENTED CONCRETE
• PROVIDES HIGH OPACITY AND A RICHER CEMENT PASTE FOR STAMPING AND TEXTURIZING
• CREATES A DENSER, MORE WEAR RESISTANT SURFACE WITH VIBRANT OR SUBTLE COLORS
• PRE-BLENDED FOR ACCURACY

APPLICATION: Cover or protect adjacent surfaces. Place, vibrate and float the base concrete surface according to standard ACI recommendations. Wood tools are recommended for the initial float as they allow open concrete surface porosity and bleed water to rise to the surface, which helps saturate the color. Note that surface bleed water is necessary for a successful dry shake application, but only in the right amounts. Too much bleed water can prevent the Speccrete® Dry-Shake Color Hardener from bonding to the concrete, since it can trap excess water being forced to the surface and lead to possible blisters or delamination. On the contrary, too little bleed water will not allow proper “wet out” of the color hardener and make it hard to trowel and place.

COVERAGE: The amount of Speccrete® Dry-Shake Color Hardener used depends upon the desired color intensity and protection required for the surface. As a general rule, dark colors are usually applied at 60 lbs / 100 sq. ft. (0.6 lb/sq./ft), medium colors applied at 90 lbs / 100 sq. ft. (0.9 lb/sq./ft), and light colors at 120 lbs / 100 sq. ft. (1.2 lb/sq./ft). 60 lbs / 100 sq. ft is considered the “minimum” coverage rate. Apply Speccrete® Dry-Shake Color Hardener in two coats, using a dry shake method of uniformly broadcasting the product onto the surface of the freshly placed concrete. The first application with the remaining 30% of material is necessary to cover any gray concrete that is still present and to ensure color uniformity and complete hiding, which is then re-floated after the water has been absorbed in as the first pass. It is advised to retain a very small amount of material to correct areas that still may have insufficient color depth or for adjustments needed in the finishing process. After the surface has achieved proper firmness, apply a broomed, scored, textured or trowel finish. A mechanical troweling machine may be used for final finishing.

For marble effects, hand trowel or float the Speccrete® Dry-Shake Color Hardener into random areas as needed, taking care not to streak the color. Another technique is to broadcast at a lower coverage rate over integrally colored concrete of a different color so that the base concrete color can show through. For stamped concrete, the use of Speccrete® Accent Release Powder can provide additional antique effects to the surface.

CURING: Avoid using plastic sheeting, membrane paper or moist curing methods. After the concrete has cured and allowed to dry (typically 3-5 days), seal the Speccrete® Dry-Shake Color Hardener with a good, high quality, UV resistant acrylic such as Concrete Earth Cure and Seal 350 (Satin finish) or Stampsheen 350 (gloss finish). Refer to manufacturer application guidelines on these sealers for additional information.

CAUTIONS & LIMITATIONS: FOR INDUSTRIAL/PROFESSIONAL USE ONLY. Float the first application, do not trowel. Hard aggregates like granite, low air entrainment, wet sub grade or plastic vapor barriers can produce higher levels of bleed water even when concrete is poured at low 4 inch standard slumps. In this case, it is best to wait for the bleed water to dissipate and the Speccrete® Dry-Shake Color Hardener should not be used to absorb excess water. If not enough bleed water is present, make sure the sub-base is pre-dampened, reduce any mix admixtures such as water reducers or air entainment agents, or increase concrete slump to 5 inches to allow more bleed water to surface. Do not add additional water to the surface of the concrete. The use of Concrete Earth EZ Trowel is recommended as an option for improved finishing or texturizing whenever low bleed water or extreme weather conditions are a factor. Cover and protect all surrounding areas where color is not desired. Be aware of wind conditions when spreading Speccrete® Dry-Shake Color Hardener. Contains synthetic iron oxide powders, avoid inhalation of dust. Wear gloves, safety goggles, and OSHA-NIOSH approved dust respirator during placement. Refer to product M.S.D.S. (Material Safety Data Sheet) for additional safety information. Do not take internally. Avoid prolonged contact with skin.

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