

# DID YOU KNOW?



Hints and tips from the Technical Department

## Preparation of Concrete Floors for Painting

When preparing concrete floors for painting acid etching is commonly employed to prepare the surface. Acid etching has the following characteristics:

- It dissolves the surface layer of concrete removing laitance, carbonation and other contaminants.
- The etched surface so produced is rough to the touch and provides the ideal key for coating.
- The floor must be allowed to dry back to 18% wood equivalent moisture or less before painting. This will take between 3-5 days in good weather, longer in winter, or humid conditions.
- Sigmacover CM, is a high performance two pack solvent based epoxy enamel especially suited to commercial and hard wear domestic (e.g. garage) floors.
- Surface preparation should be acid etch, followed by a drying out period of 3 - 5 days.
- An initial sealing coat of Sigmacover CM thinned 25-30% with Thinner 91-92 is then applied. This will penetrate and set within the concrete surface giving an ideal key for the next coat.
- Apply one or two further coats of Sigmacover CM thinned 10 % with Thinner 91-92.
- If required, clean dry sand may be mixed with the second or third coat to give a non skid finish.
- The finish will withstand foot traffic after 16 - 24 hours, and is fully cured in 7 days.
- Sigmacover CM is self priming on concrete. Do not use other products e.g. Super Etch to "prime" the surface, they do not improve adhesion and do not replace the need for acid etching.
- If intending to apply Sigmacover CM to an already painted floor check the existing finish is firmly bonded to the concrete, compatible with Sigmacover CM and properly prepared i.e. free from dirt, oil and grease. Failures, should they occur, will be due to incompatibility or pre existing poor adhesion.
- Sigmacover CM should not be applied over acrylic finishes, and checked carefully with enamels to ensure wrinkling or lifting does not occur.
- Low surface temperatures will extend the dry times by up to 100%