



Improving Appearance of Scaling & Spalling on Colored Decorative Concrete



Necessary Supplies:

- Pigmented concrete stain (typically water-based) or colored stamp release or ChemMasters Translucent Tint for translucent repairs
- ChemMasters Polyseal Tint for opaque repairs
- 1" solvent resistant brush
- Decorative ChemMasters sealer such as Polyseal, Polyseal-A, Polyseal EZ, Traz 25, Traz 25-A, Crystal Clear, Crystal Clear-A

It's not uncommon to lose some surface paste from decorative concrete in the form of scaling or spalling. This may represent the presence of "laitance" (a weak layer of paste), blistering or delamination from over worked concrete, an area of excessive water vapor transmission or sealer thickness, or simply the ravages of a tough winter season.

In most cases the damage is cosmetic and of limited size. Yet the loss of surface paste can be unsightly, particularly if there is loss of surface color, exposing the uncolored concrete beneath. As a result, many owners will ask that a cosmetic repair take place.

Any repair cosmetic repair of scaling or spalling on colored decorative concrete must begin with a realistic expectation. It's not going to look perfect. Proper repairs can improve the appearance dramatically, but they will not be unnoticeable. And since these repairs are more art than science, the outcome will be largely dependent upon your artistic ability and experience.

Correction Process:

These corrective steps are **suggestions only**. It is the responsibility of the user to determine what methods will best suit their individual situation.

Choose a concrete stain, stamp release or Translucent Tint that will best blend with the surrounding colored concrete. Often it will be necessary to use a blend of concrete stain colors to achieve the desired shade of color. Try a small test area to determine satisfaction with your choices.

Repair 1

For translucent repairs in which the underlying concrete remains visible, there are several possible methods to restore color, including (but not limited to):

- Brush the water-based concrete stain(s) onto the damaged areas, blending colors as necessary to achieve the desired appearance. When dry, apply a thin coat of a ChemMasters decorative sealer.
- Blend colored release agent with ChemMasters decorative sealer to achieve the desired appearance and apply to the damaged areas. Be careful not to add too much release, as that will inhibit sealer adhesion.
- Add ChemMasters Translucent Tint to ChemMasters decorative concrete sealer to achieve the desired appearance and carefully apply to the damaged areas.

Repair 2

For opaque repairs in which the underlying concrete will not be visible:

- Add ChemMasters Polyseal Tint to ChemMasters decorative concrete sealer to achieve the desired appearance and carefully apply to the damaged areas. Be careful not to add too much Polyseal Tint, as that will inhibit sealer adhesion.
- To hide large, severely damaged areas, use Polyseal Tint & a ChemMasters decorative sealer over the entire substrate.

Tech Tips:

- Always try a small test area to confirm satisfaction with results.
- Different application techniques will yield different cosmetic results.
- Do not over apply tinting materials, as this will inhibit sealer adhesion.