



Neutralizing an Acidic Concrete Slab

Conducting a PH test that results in an Acidic floor requires neutralizing before any floor coating can be applied.

If concrete has been exposed to acidic substances (like acid stains, cleaning agents, or even certain types of concrete mixes), it can become acidic, which can hinder the adhesion of coatings. To neutralize acidic concrete before applying a coating, you can use a TSP (trisodium phosphate) and baking soda solution, and rinse thoroughly with clean water, ensuring all residue is removed before applying the coating.

Items needed:

- Water
- TSP (Trisodium Phosphate)
- Baking Soda
- Mixing Bucket
- Stiff brush, Broom or floor scrubber
- *Mop or sprayer optional*

1. **Mix:** Add a blend of 1:1 TSP to baking soda (which should add a bit of cleaning as well) mixed in bucket of water and apply to the floor.
2. **Full wash/scrub:** With Brush, broom and/or floor scrubber scrub the surface to remove any loose particles or residues.
3. **Thorough Rinse:** Rinse the surface thoroughly with clean water several times to remove any remaining residue. Scrub the surface with a stiff brush to remove any loose particles or residue. Rinse well at least 2 times with fresh water.
4. **Check pH:** After rinsing, check the pH of the wet surface using pH strips or a pH pencil. The ideal pH is 7.0, but a pH of 7.0 - 9.0 is acceptable.
5. *Continue Steps 1 – 4 until a neutral PH is achieved.*
 - a. It's not uncommon to have to repeat the above steps to move pH to neutral.
6. **Drying:** Ensure the concrete surface is completely dry before applying any coating.
7. **Applying the Coating:** Once the surface is neutralized, rinsed, scrubbed, and completely dry, you can proceed with applying the desired coating.