



TECHNICAL PAPER

Applications and Advantages for ROCK HARD Stone Hardener

NCL ROCK HARD is quite a versatile product. It is both a hardener and a densifier, and works with marble, limestone, many granites, engineered stone, concrete and terrazzo. ROCK HARD will harden the surface of all of these substrates, providing a longer lasting shine when polished. It also densifies the body of these materials, dramatically increasing the stain resistance of the surface.

How It Works

ROCK HARD penetrates to work both on the surface and below the surface. It acts chemically to form a film at the surface and into the body. Applying the product more times increases the depth of this film. This is how the product acts to densify and harden stone, concrete and terrazzo floors. ROCK HARD is not a crystallizer; there are no polishing agents in the product. It is forming a chemical bond in the material itself; this bond can't be broken down or stripped off. As a result of the surface interaction, the new surface is extremely resistant to staining, and especially resistant to oil and grease.



PROCEDURE:

With Weighted Machine (for surface smoothing):

The product is applied with a trigger sprayer, then buffed dry with a weighted NCL STONE BLAZER Stone Restoration Machine and a STEEL FORCE Steel Wool Pad. Spray out 3 trigger pulls of ROCK HARD onto the floor and buff until dry over 9 sq. ft.; repeat once more. Then put a STEEL FORCE Pad under the AQUA MAGIC pad. Put out 2 trigger pulls of ROCK HARD and buff until dry over the same area.

The STEEL FORCE Pad is doing some surface smoothing; however, its main purpose is to act as a catalyst for the ROCK HARD. The heat generated from the pad and weighted machine helps the chemical reaction that is taking place inside the material being worked. Repeating this application makes the film that is being formed become deeper and stronger. While the product is not cured fully for 8 – 12 hours after application, the floor is ready for foot traffic immediately.

Using a High Speed Burnisher (increased labor savings):

Another application for ROCK HARD involves using a high speed burnisher. The product should be mopped on evenly using a micro fiber mop. After this has been allowed to fully dry, it may be burnished with an NCL AQUA MAGIC Floor Pad. Using a slow, steady pace with the burnisher, the floor will produce a deep, lustrous gloss.

One thing to note; the burnisher will produce gloss even on a damaged surface, but will not flatten the surface as with the STONE BLAZER Weighted Machine and STEEL FORCE Pad. If surface flattening is desired or required, use the former method.



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Using ROCK HARD and DIAMOND GLOSS Stone Rejuvenator

ROCK HARD must react with compounds that are in the floor substrate. Therefore, all finishes and sealers must be stripped off the surface. Floors must be thoroughly rinsed and free of any remaining residue. Then let the floor completely dry prior to using the products.

PROCEDURE:

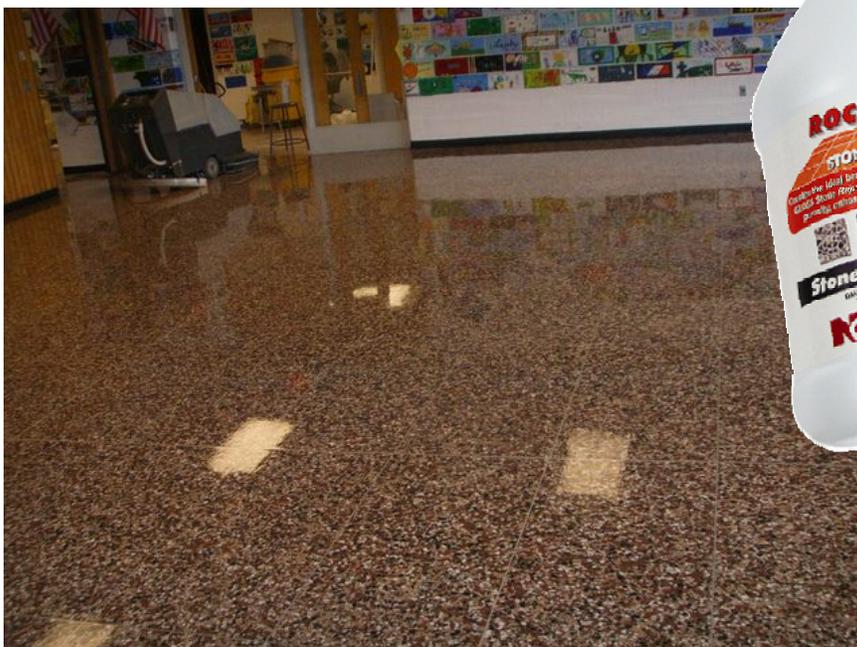
With Weighted Machine (for surface smoothing):

It is best to use an AQUA MAGIC pad to start the process. Spray out 3 trigger pulls of ROCK HARD onto the floor and buff until dry over 9 sq. ft.; repeat once more. Then put a STEEL FORCE Pad under the AQUA MAGIC pad. Put out 2 trigger pulls of ROCK HARD and buff until dry over the same area.

Now you can spray out 2 trigger pulls of DIAMOND GLOSS Stone Rejuvenator and buff until dry over this same area. This should give you the best gloss. The floor is now ready for daily maintenance. You can maintain this floor with PATINA Stone Cleaner / Conditioner and an occasional application of DIAMOND GLOSS. NOTE: You may use ONE STEP Stone Crystallizer in place of DIAMOND GLOSS during your maintenance process if desired.

Getting the best results

Older floors with a wear pattern can get an improved look by doing some surface smoothing before using this process. Terrazzo floors generally respond better if MRP Marble Restoration Paste is used to help smooth out the surface first. On older terrazzo and stone floors, using an 800 grit diamond (or even a 400 grit followed by an 800 grit diamond) will make the floor look almost new. The more work that is done to smooth out the finish, the better the gloss will be after using ROCK HARD and DIAMOND GLOSS .





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Using ROCK HARD on Concrete Floors

Polished concrete floors have gained popularity in recent years. There are several densifiers for concrete available today. These products are heavy duty, and are applied during the grinding process when polishing concrete; however, they are too harsh to be used in the same way we use ROCK HARD. We have determined that ROCK HARD works well to further harden and densify concrete floors (in post-grinding applications) that have been polished with diamonds and have had a densifier applied during the process. Our product works well with all of the densifiers in use today, as a final step or for polish restoration when needed.

Even the hardest, most densely polished concrete will show wear in traffic patterns over time. Using ROCK HARD with a STONE BLAZER on these areas will restore the gloss and provide smoothing of the concrete surface. Typically, if the floor has been in place for over a year, it is a candidate for polish restoration. This is where ROCK HARD has no equal.



PROCEDURE:

**With Weighted Machine
(for surface smoothing):**

The product is applied with a trigger sprayer, then buffed dry with a weighted NCL STONE BLAZER Stone Restoration Machine and a STEEL FORCE Steel Wool Pad.

Spray out 3 trigger pulls of ROCK HARD

onto the floor and buff until dry over 9 sq. ft.; repeat once more. Then put a STEEL FORCE Pad under the AQUA MAGIC pad. Put out 2 trigger pulls of ROCK HARD and buff until dry over the same area.

Using a High Speed Burnisher (increased labor savings):

The product should be mopped on evenly using a micro fiber mop. After this has been allowed to fully dry, it may be burnished with an NCL AQUA MAGIC Floor Pad. Using a slow, steady pace with the burnisher, the floor will produce a deep, lustrous gloss.



ROCK HARD will indeed provide you many cost and labor saving benefits; now and into the future.