Soft Tread or Safe Tread

WATERBASED Anti-Slip Coatings

"Get a Grip on a Slippery World"

Soft Tread and Safe Tread Coatings have been formulated for use on FIBERGLASS, CONCRETE, WOOD and PRIMED METAL surfaces. When used properly, these products provide a tough, anti-slip coating for walkways, steps, ramps, boat decks, docks, pool areas, locker room floors, and a variety of other uses. ***Soft Tread*** is best for pleasure boats, pool areas, locker rooms and sites where standard anti-slip products were felt to be too abrasive for small children and even for many adults. ***Safe Tread*** is a more aggressive coating for areas where maximum traction is required such as industrial and commercial higher traffic areas. These products have been subjected to prolonged use on boats, industrial facilities and other wet environments and have proven to be very durable while providing a beautiful and effective anti-slip surface.

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INFORMATION INDEX

1.0 GENERAL GUIDELINES

- ***PROPER SURFACE PREPARATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR A HIGH QUALITY OUTCOME!***
- Always clean each surface that is to be coated. Poorly cleaned surfaces cause adhesion failure!
- Remove all grease, oil, rust and other contaminants; leave no residue, clean thoroughly - if there is any question of contaminants, use a cleaner such as TSP, commercial degreaser or laundry detergent and a scrub brush or use a wire brush on metal surfaces.
- Never assume a surface is clean. Inspect it carefully!
- Ensure that the surface (substrate) is sound, DRY, and free of all wax, oil, grease and loose materials.
- ***IMPORTANT!*** Testing indicates that adhesion is best when a primer is used on certain substrates. Be sure to apply ***Soft or Safe Tread*** within the time specifications of the primer manufacturer.
- Each gallon of ***Soft or Safe Tread*** will cover between 40 to 80 square feet in a 2 to 3 coat process.
- Use ONLY WATER for thinning and clean up.
- Keep the product from freezing.

Effective May, 2011

2.0 PERSONAL PROTECTION

Please review the Material Safety Data Sheet for information on Health Hazards, First Aid, Safe Handling, Emergency Information and other Product Information It is recommended that you wear appropriate attire for applying typical latex paints. ***Soft or Safe Tread*** **can be applied without any modification!**

3.0 "TRICKS OF THE TRADE"

- Dilute ***Soft or Safe Tread*** with clean water only if absolutely necessary to achieve a given texture. A dilution of 5% will reduce the solids within the product by the same amount and can increase the drying time significantly.
- Mask off all areas not to be coated. Make sure to remove the masking tape immediately after the application of each coat and while coating is still wet to insure a clean edge. Double Taping is recommended.
- Stir thoroughly before applying and stir periodically to maintain aggregate in suspension.
- In order to avoid "cracking" do not allow ***Soft or Safe Tread*** to pool and do not apply the coats too thick during each of the applications.
- When applying ***Soft or Safe Tread***, be sure to apply at right angles to the previous coat.
- Application failures if any will be due to inadequate or improper substrate preparation.

4.0 TYPES OF APPLICATIONS

We recommend 2 coats to be considered for "light" traffic and 3 coats for heavier traffic or use. It's important to "build up" with multiple coats and not try to achieve maximum total thickness in one coat.

4.1 ROLLER APPLICATION

- For most effective application to large areas, use a "FoamPRO" 3/8" foam roller available from your ***Soft Tread*** supplier. Imparting different textures can be accomplished by using a lighter or slightly heavier pressure on the roller once the material has been positioned. Roll in only one direction as the final pass to insure uniformity in the resulting texture. **NOTE: using a typical paint roller is NOT recommended and will result in an uneven finish.**
- Dampen texture roller with water, then remove excess water prior to application.
- Pour ***Soft or Safe Tread*** onto the surface to be coated or dip roller into the 5 gallon bucket. Make sure to completely saturate the roller with product, leaving no bare spots on roller.
- Apply the first coat as a thin coat. Resaturate roller after each pass. Make 4 - 5 consecutive passes in the same direction, with each pass right next to the other. When applying, roll in one direction first, and then roll in the opposite direction to properly blend the product and create a uniform textured surface.
- Once an area is covered, run the roller very lightly over it to ensure even distribution of the texture coating.
- When dry to the touch, apply the subsequent coat (s).
- Do not apply too thick in a single coat or a slight "surface cracking" may result in the dried coating.

4.2 BRUSH APPLICATION

- Use a disposable FOAM BRUSH for best results. Use a 2" brush for small areas and a 6" brush for larger areas.
- Apply the first coat as a thin coat.
- When dry to the touch, apply the subsequent coat(s) until the desired texture is achieved.
- Do not apply too thick in a single coat or a slight "surface cracking" may result in the dried coating.

5.0 PRIMERS

- Primers are an integral part of our coatings system. The following primer is available:
- "***Soft (Safe) Tread Wood & Concrete Primer***"… is a waterbased primer designed for porous wood or porous concrete surfaces. It seals the surface so the ***Soft or Safe Tread*** gets maximum adhesion.

6.0 CURING TIME & APPLICATION TEMPERATURES

- **Normally *Soft Tread* or *Safe Tread* will be dry to the touch within 1 hour and can be subjected to light foot traffic within 24 hours**. PLEASE NOTE: Full curing time only affects the amount of time

required to wait before subjecting the surface to cleaning, heavy loads and chemical exposure. Surface can be subjected to normal loads well before this minimum time requirement.

- The coating ***should not*** be subjected to cleaning, heavy loads, or chemical exposure until fully cured after 3 to 7 days.
- Judgment should be used when determining when the application is fully cured. Dry times in this manual are based on a temperature of 75°F and 50% humidity. Higher relative humidity will slow the drying process noticeably as will low temperatures.
- ***Soft Tread*** **or** ***Safe Tread*** should not be used when surface temperatures are under 60°F or expected to drop below that or when rain or evening dew is imminent before product has a chance to fully dry.
- ***Do not allow product to freeze.***
- **IMPORTANT:** ONLY USE CLEAN WATER TO THIN OR DILUTE ***Soft Tread or Safe Tread***.

7.0 FIBERGLASS

- To insure good adhesion, first sand the surface aggressively using 36 or 40 grit paper to ensure the removal of all gloss from the substrate. Try "No-Sand" deglosser for painted decks if sanding is not possible.
- Clean to insure that the surface is completely free of waxes and other protective additives.
- Test for adhesion first, before continuing with the job.
- Apply ***Soft Tread or Safe Tread***.

8.0 CONCRETE

8.1 GENERAL ADVICE FOR CONCRETE APPLICATION

Taking into account the following specifically listed concrete notes, unless you are absolutely sure of the (substrate) concrete history, it is important to establish the type of concrete application, the history of the concrete (if various contaminants such as oils, fuels, polishing waxes, chemicals, etc., have been in contact with the concrete), and how the application should be tackled. If there is any doubt at all about any aspect of the concrete history or type, always test (adhesion apply to a small area to test acceptability) **BEFORE** undertaking the overall application. **CONCRETE MUST BE COMPLETELY DRY AT DEPTH.**

At times, apparently properly prepared substrates do not allow adhesion. If the substrate is properly prepared prior to the application of ***Soft or Safe Tread*** and no adhesion results, this is usually the result of concrete dampness or contamination by chemicals or silicone type materials. These types of contaminants can not be seen even though the prepared concrete looks clean and/or porous. Contaminated substrates of this type will reveal the lifting of ***Soft or Safe Tread*** in sheet form, revealing adhesion to the primer, but the primer fails to adhere to the substrate.

The solution to resolving these types of problems is to establish precisely what the concrete has been exposed to and then to apply the correct cleaning agent to remove the contaminant. For example, long-term fuel contamination will require several degreaser applications to remove all imbedded fuel contaminants. Long term beer contamination in bars will require appropriate cleaning/preparation and a significant drying time period to ensure that beer yeast contamination from within the concrete and the concrete surface properly dries. Without this preparation, no adhesion will be possible.

SIMPLE ADHESION TEST: To determine if surface is paintable, put a few small drops of water onto the concrete. If the water beads up, it indicates the presence of a waterproof sealer or other compound that could impede adhesion of ***Soft or Safe Tread***.

8.2 CONCRETE FINISH

The type of concrete finish is critical in the way the surface preparation is undertaken. Dense, hard and heavily worked and compressed concrete is NOT porous and adhesion difficulties can be experienced without the correct treatment of the substrate. ***Soft or Safe Tread*** or the primer used must be able to penetrate or attach itself to the substrate in order that satisfactory adhesion occurs. New concrete will take up to 28 days to cure properly. **Unless concrete is dry, adhesion problems can be experienced. Test dryness with a moisture meter to determine if concrete is truly dry.** Alternately, a 4' X 4' piece of visqueen or clear plastic can be placed securely over the concrete, with the edges weighted down to prevent air blowing underneath. When removed after 2 hours, if there is any indication of moisture on the plastic surface in contact with the concrete,

or if the concrete that was covered is darker than the surrounding concrete – there is moisture present and the concrete should be allowed to dry more thoroughly before application of coatings.

8.3 CONCRETE CLEANING

Degreasers: It is very important when using a degreaser that the clean up is absolutely thorough and complete. Rinse the surface thoroughly so that no residual degreaser is left in the substrate. TIDE Laundry powder works well.

Caustic Detergents: These products help emulsify surface grease or oils and bring the contaminants to the surface. This allows the contaminants to be washed away.

Acid Etching: This type of cleaning helps to open the pores of the concrete so that primers and coatings have the best chance to obtain a mechanical as well as a chemical adhesion. Clean concrete with detergents or TSP prior to Acid Etching so that all dirt is removed and a complete etch is possible. DO NOT ALLOW ACID TO DRY ON THE SURFACE. Rinse concrete thoroughly after Acid Etching to remove all acid residues. Allow to dry completely!!!!!

CONCRETE…

- Must be fully cured.
- If concrete surface is clean and has a porous texture, no further surface preparation is necessary.
- If the concrete surface is NOT porous then acid etching, sanding or shot blasting is necessary. Make sure to use a light acid etch and to remove all remaining acid with soap and water and scrub brush. (If all acid is not properly removed, you will not obtain adhesion).
- Concrete should be completely clean and very dry. **Test for dryness by laying plastic sheeting over a 6 square foot area and weighing down the edges of the sheeting. Allow to sit in the sun for 2 hours before removing the plastic. If there is moisture on the back side of the plastic or the concrete is darker where the plastic was lying, the deck is too wet to coat.**
- Patch all imperfections, cracks, etc. with concrete patch filler and flexible joint fillers. (These are available at your local hardware store or home center.)
- **DO NOT USE OVER SILICONE PRODUCTS**. (The Product will not adhere to silicone or Siloxanes.)
- Prime with ***Soft or Safe Tread Concrete Primer*** as per label instructions. When primer has properly cured, perform test patch to insure adhesion.
- Apply ***Soft or Safe Tread***.

9.0 PAINTED SURFACES

- Aggressively roughen glossy surfaces by sanding with 36 or 40 grit sand paper. The surface must be rough to achieve the proper adhesion. Use No-Sand deglosser if sanding is not possible.
- Clean surface of all oils, grease, dirt, silicone and other contaminants. Leave no chalk or other residue.
- Inspect for any imperfections or delamination of previously painted surface using probe or pen knife.
- Test for adhesion before continuing with job.
- Apply ***Soft or Safe Tread***.

10.0 STEEL AND ALUMINUM

- **All bare metal substrates should be primed after being treated for rust or removal of old paint.**
- All smooth metal should be cleaned, degreased, and aggressively roughed by sanding with 36 or 40 grit sand paper OR by acid etch.
- Clean and dry surface.
- Prime with a ***Water-Based Rust-Inhibitive Metal Primer***.
- Test for adhesion before continuing with job.
- Apply ***Soft or Safe Tread***.

11.0 WOOD

- Sand with 36 or 40 grit sand paper to remove all dead wood fiber and insure proper adhesion.
- Pressure treated wood must be aged at least 6 months before coating with ***Soft or Safe Tread***.
- Remove any peeling, cracking, or chipping paint, varnish or sealer.

- Ensure surface is clean, porous and completely dry. Prime bare wood with ***Soft Tread Concrete & Wood Primer***.
- Test for adhesion before continuing with job.
- Apply ***Soft or Safe Tread***.

12.0 STORAGE AND REPAIR

12.1 STORAGE

- To store partially used cans, seal container well (airtight) and place in cool, dry place. The contents should be useable for at least 12 months. If storing for an extended period of time, sprinkle an ounce of water onto the coating in the container and seal the lid to allow for high humidity in the can and this will help prevent skinning of the product.
- If some water content has evaporated from the product upon long term storage, add a small amount of clean water to restore the "creaminess" back to the product. If product becomes hard, dispose of it in an approved manner.

12.2 REPAIR

- In the event that ***Soft or Safe Tread*** is damaged, it can easily be repaired, or over-coated, because it bonds incredibly well to itself.
- Remove all damaged product. Use a sharp knife such as a utility knife to make a well-defined area such as a square and eliminate uneven edges.
- Sand area with 36 or 40 grit sandpaper so that the new application can get a good grip. Slightly bevel the edges of the existing product so that the new product can fill in the cutout area and go slightly over the adjacent surfaces.
- Clean area with water and allow drying.
- Apply ***Soft or Safe Tread*** to affected area.

13.0 MAINTENANCE

- Most general floor cleaners have been tested and will work well. Use products such as; *Simple Green, TSP, Laundry Detergents (TIDE Powdered Detergent), Citrus Orange Cleaners, Commercial Degreasers, Orpine, and dilute chlorine bleach, etc.*
- For best results, use a stiff bristled deck brush to agitate cleaner on the surface.
- Rinse surface thoroughly to remove all residue.
- Surfaces can also be cleaned with use of automatic scrubbers with pad pressure set on a light setting for large industrial applications. **Heavy scrubbing with automatic scrubbers can negatively affect the coated surface.**

14.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you are about to quote or undertake any major projects or are in any doubt about surface preparation, please contact us so that professional advice can be given. Be sure that you supply us with adequate information on the substrate and any other issues that may require consideration, i.e., site description, previous and/or current uses for the area, amount of wear.

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