

Concrete Slide Maintenance

Your concrete slide is designed and built to provide many years of service. However, with all concrete structures, small cracks may occur. These cracks are normal, and should not compromise the integrity of the slide. The downside is they may allow water to settle in them and cause a deposit of efflorescence. Efflorescence appears as white streaks or "calcium-like" build up at the crack. This is, of course, exaggerated by the "hardness" of the water here in the Valley.

These deposits can be removed by scrubbing with a synthetic or plastic "scotchbrite" sponge pad. These are the same pads used to scrub Teflon pots & pans. Do not use metallic scouring pads or brushes, as they are too aggressive and will remove the clear sealer. Another household product that may help is CLR (calcium, lime, rust) which is available at most grocery stores. Follow the directions on the container for surface cleaning, and rinse with fresh water. Scrubbing these areas should keep your slide useable, but may need to be re-sealed.

The slide is colored using concrete stain and sealed using a clear, high-gloss, "high solids" concrete sealer. This sealer is designed for high traffic floors and is quite durable. It will keep its gloss for many years, but may need re-application if slide is worn or surface cracks need to be sealed.

It is usually best to do this process in outside temperatures between 60 and 90 degrees, if possible. Application procedure starts with a light hand sanding (120 grit paper) to slightly rough up the area to be resealed. Be careful not to sand completely through the old sealer to the stain layer. Thoroughly rinse the surface with fresh water and a clean sponge. Make sure the area is completely clean & dry before applying sealer. Use a 2" bristle or foam brush in even strokes, and blend any drips or runs before the sealer becomes tacky. Slide should be ready to use the following day.

The Clear Seal HS is available at: Cohills Building Specialties 3825 E Anne Street Phoenix, AZ 85040 (602)266-0462

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