

Avoiding Concrete Sealers That Yellow

Thousands of consumers invest in concrete sealers every day to protect and beautify their concrete. What you may be surprised to find out is many concrete sealers may turn yellow in the days following application. So, the question is, “how do I avoid purchasing a concrete sealer that is going to turn yellow”?

Unless you are heavily involved in the concrete industry you are more than likely not familiar with ASTM C1315. ASTM C1315 governs liquid membrane sealers for curing and sealing concrete – the sealers we’re referring to. Within C1315 there are two ‘Types’ and three ‘Classes’ by which we classify these liquid, membrane-forming compounds also known as sealers.

- The type of compound is relative to the color of the sealer in liquid form. Clear or white are the options.
- The class of compound is indicative to what extent the compound will turn yellow as it naturally breaks down and degrades over time with exposure to UV-rays.



Panels tested per ASTM C154 via ASTM C1315.

Now, back to our question, how do I find a concrete sealer that will not yellow? And do they even exist?

Yes, they do exist. However their existence is a responsibility of manufacturers to formulate in order to protect against natural chemical degradation – even though it is allowed per C1315. The most direct option to avoid purchasing a sealer that will yellow is to simply ask the manufacturer which of their sealers will not yellow.

As we learned earlier the class of sealer according to C1315 dictates how much yellowing is allowed. The classifications go like this, Class A sealers are “essentially non-yellowing” and Class C sealers are “not restricted from yellowing or darkening”. Class B is somewhere in between. So, a Class A sealer has the least likely chance of yellowing because Class A sealers conforming to C1315 are required to have the least yellowing characteristics however both types and all classes can and will yellow in most cases over time if not properly formulated - beyond the performance requirements of C1315.

There are several non-yellowing concrete sealers available which use combined engineered technologies to provide additional protection above and beyond what is required in order to protect our customers against yellowing sealers.

Before purchasing a sealer don’t hesitate to contact the manufacturer of the sealer to inquire on the product you are considering purchasing. Also, it may be necessary to request speaking with the Technical Department if you need help deciphering specifications and standards jargon.



Yellowing of concrete curing and sealing compounds can lead to unsightly results

In closing and in all cases, ask questions, let US help. It’s better to ask questions up front rather than learn the hard way which could result in costly removal and repair or simply result in an unforeseen eyesore. Ultimately, most concrete sealers will break down overtime with prolonged exposure to abrasion and UV light (even the yellow ones). However we believe most professionals would choose to avoid sealers that yellow altogether.

Written by: Bryan Smith, Technical Director for US Mix.