



Trowel Ice

FAQ FOR TENON® TROWEL ICE WHEN USED AS A COLLOIDAL SILICATE FINISHING AID

Colloidal silicate finishing aids are surface-applied products used during concrete finishing to improve workability and surface quality. They can make troweling easier and improve density and abrasion resistance. They are not a replacement for curing and should be used as part of a complete finishing and curing plan.

What is a colloidal silicate finishing aid?

A colloidal silicate finishing aid is a liquid product used on fresh concrete during finishing to improve surface workability, and help create a denser, smoother surface.

How does it work?

It reacts with free lime in the concrete and helps form additional calcium silicate hydrate, the binder that contributes to concrete strength and durability.

What is its primary function in fresh concrete?

Its primary function is to modify the behavior of the surface paste during floating and troweling so the slab remains more workable and less prone to premature crusting, tearing, or drag marks..

When is it applied?

When used as a finishing aid, it is applied during the finishing sequence, after initial bleed water has dissipated and before final troweling, following the manufacturer's placement window and dosage guidance.

What are the main benefits?

Common benefits include easier finishing, less tearing or dusting, improved surface density, better abrasion resistance, and more uniform consolidation of the paste layer.

Does it replace curing compound?

No. It can help during finishing, but it does not replace proper curing.

Will it change the appearance of the concrete?

It generally should not alter the finished appearance when used correctly.

Is it the same as a densifier?

When applied as a finishing aid to plastic concrete it does not serve as a densifier. When applied to hardened concrete, Trowel Ice will densify the concrete surface. Always reference the manufacturer's instructions.

Where is it most useful?

It is often used on interior and exterior flatwork, decorative concrete, hard-troweled floors, overlays, tilt-up work, and modern concrete mixes.

Are there any limits or cautions?

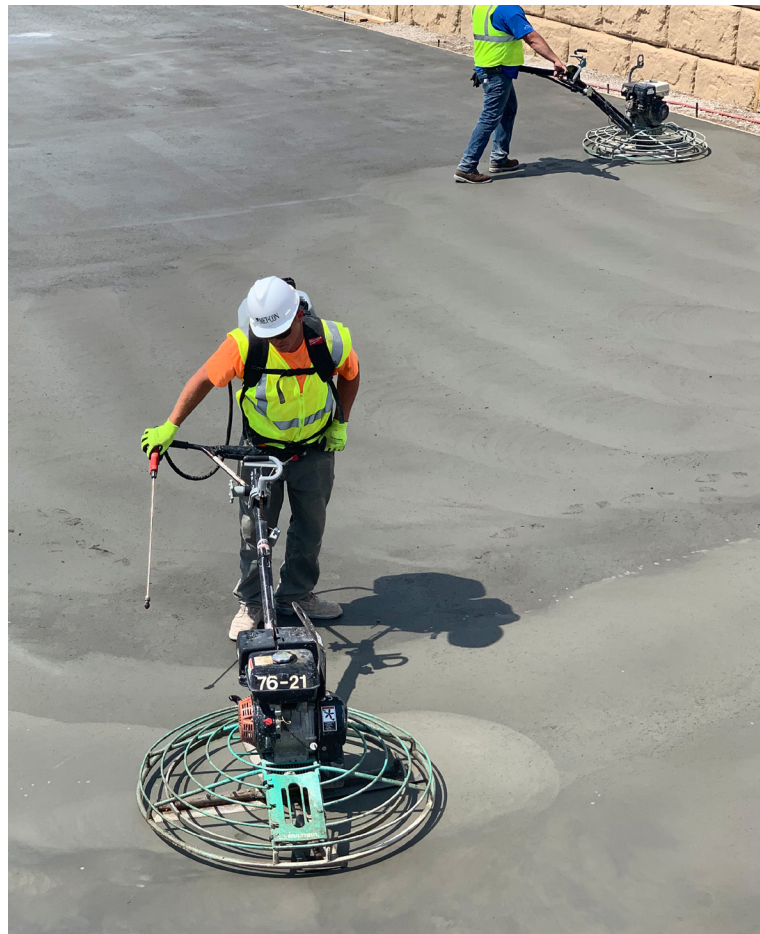
Always apply in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Over-application, improper timing, or use outside the manufacturer's intended conditions can negatively affect finishing behavior.

Who typically uses it?

Concrete finishers, contractors, and flooring crews use it when they want more consistent finishing results and a better final surface.

Is it an evaporation retarder?

No. Trowel Ice is designed to be finished into concrete. If it is not finished into the surface, discoloration of the surface can occur.





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WHAT TO DO AND NOT DO

DO

- Do apply the colloidal silicate finishing aid during floating and troweling, followed by immediately finishing into the surface.
- Do use it to improve workability, increase surface cream, and support a smoother finish.
- Do use proper coverage rates and application amounts to avoid overuse at the surface.
- Do use it on slabs where better finishability, density, and abrasion resistance are desired.
- Do consider it for difficult finishing conditions.
- Do continue with proper curing procedures after finishing is complete.

DON'T

- Don't treat it like an evaporation retarder; it is a finishing aid, not a moisture-control film.
- Don't overapply.
- Don't use it as a substitute for proper finishing technique.
- Don't assume all mix designs will respond the same way, especially mixes already with high replacement rates of SCMs such as fly ash or slag.
- Don't confuse "worked into the surface" with "overworked"; it is intended to be floated or troweled in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and not ponded on the concrete surface.