



Epoxy Grout Haze Removal

TDS 198

LATICRETE International, Inc. produces easy to use epoxy based grouts. When LATAPOXY® and LATICRETE® Grouts are used in accordance with installation and clean-up methods they will enhance your tile project by creating long lasting durability and beauty. To avoid grout haze, follow the installation instructions outlined in the How To Install Brochures of the grout being used. For SPECTRALOCK® PRO Premium Grout* use data sheet 681.5, for SPECTRALOCK PRO Grout use data sheet 685.5, and for SPECTRALOCK 2000 IG use data sheet 004.5. For LATAPOXY SP-100 use data sheet 631.5 INTL. All of the LATICRETE How-To-Install Brochures are available at www.laticrete.com.

Epoxy grout haze is the byproduct of improper cleaning and is not a product defect. Epoxy haze is caused by the initial cleaning water being left on the surface of the tile too long. Epoxy resins suspended in the cleaning water are transferred onto the tile surface during the cleaning; the water evaporates and the epoxy resins remain behind. IT IS NECESSARY TO DO A SECOND WASH! The following steps can be taken to remove epoxy haze;

FOR SPECTRALOCK® PRO PREMIUM GROUT AND SPECTRALOCK PRO GROUT:

The best way to alleviate the residue in the first place is to ensure that a final wash is done within the time frame stated in the instructions. Begin final cleaning approximately 1 hour after installation of the SPECTRALOCK PRO Premium Grout or SPECTRALOCK PRO Grout. Mix the second packet of Cleaning Additive 377 to 2 gallons (7.6 L) of clean, cool water. Use a white scrub pad to lightly scrub apart any of the leftover residue remaining on the surface of the tile. Then drag a clean, damp sponge diagonally over the scrubbed surfaces to remove any froth and residue. Rinse sponge often and change water every 50 ft² (4.5 m²). Allow cleaned areas to dry and inspect entire surface of tile or stone. Repeat process if haze remains. If haze remains 24 hours after installation then follow the method below (for tiles that will not scratch):

- Use Electric Dishwasher Detergent Powder Type (Cascade, Electrosol, etc...). 1/4 cup (60 mL) per 3.5 gallon (13.2 Liters) pail of warm water. Wet floor with a mop (liberally) and apply the dishwasher detergent /water solution. Then broadcast SPECTRALOCK Part C powder or silica sand over the floor. Use a sponge or a white scrub pad to thoroughly scrub the affected areas.

For larger areas use apply the detergent water/powder over the affected areas and use a buffing machine with a white 3M pad and make several passes over the floor. Next, vacuum up the solution and sand with a wet vac. Rinse well with clean water. Repeat process as required.

- Thoroughly rinse area with clean water to insure that all the detergent solution has been removed.
- The cleaners listed above can also be used with sand and then agitated with a nylon scrub pad.

Alternatively, a bleaching type cleanser (e.g. Clorox® Soft Scrub® with Bleach) and a white scrub pad can be used to remove haze from the surface.

If haze remains, or if a polished stone has haze remaining and it cannot be removed with vinegar or the bleaching type cleaners, then LATICRETE STONETECH Technical Services at 1.888.786-6343 for best recommendation and where it can be purchased.

FOR LATAPOXY® SP-100 AND SPECTRALOCK 2000 IG HAZE:

The best way to alleviate the residue in the first place is to ensure that a final wash is done properly within the time frame stated in the instructions. Within 12 hours for SPECTRALOCK 2000 IG and 24 hours for LATAPOXY SP-100, the tiles should be cleaned with a new sponge or nylon pad with soapy water (a clear liquid dishwashing detergent/water solution works best). Liquid Electric Dishwashing detergent mixed with water, in conjunction a white nylon scrub pad, can also be used to scrub the tile surface within 24 hours of the SPECTRALOCK® 2000 IG and LATAPOXY® SP-100 installation.

Good results have been achieved by using the method stated below for installations that are older than 24 hours:

Allow the grout to cure for a minimum of 7 days @ 70°F (21°C) and then mask off the work area to protect adjacent finished surfaces. Use STONETECH Heavy Duty Coating Stripper as directed on the package or contact STONETECH Technical Services at 1.888.786.6343.

The use of SPECTRALOCK Part C powder along with the above mentioned cleaner can make the removal of the residual haze easier. Apply the cleaner per manufacturer's directions, sprinkle SPECTRALOCK Part C powder onto the wet areas and scrub well.

For stubborn film that also includes SPECTRALOCK Part C powder use STONETECH Heavy Duty Coating Stripper and scrub with a nylon pad to dislodge the haze. Please note that several applications may be required. Always conduct a small test area to verify results. Do not over expose the grout joints to STONETECH Heavy Duty Coating Stripper.

Always neutralize the effects of the cleaner by thoroughly rinsing the floors with either Tri-Sodium Phosphate (TSP) or a solution of baking soda and clean water. Then rinse thoroughly with clean water. WARNING/ CAUTION: Strong detergent solutions require eye protection and gloves.

Another alternative that can be used for tiles that will not scratch:

- Use Electric Dishwasher Detergent Powder Type (Cascade, Electrosol, etc...). 1/4 cup (60 mL) per 3.5 gallon (13.2 Liters) pail of warm water. Wet floor with a mop (liberally) and apply the dishwasher detergent /water solution. Then broadcast SPECTRALOCK Part C powder or silica sand over the floor. Use a buffing machine with a white 3M pad and make several passes over the floor. Next, vacuum up the solution and sand with a wet vac. Rinse well with clean water. Repeat process as required.
- Thoroughly rinse area with clean water to insure that all the detergent solution has been removed.
- The cleaners listed above can also be used with sand and then agitated with a nylon scrub pad.

To ensure good results and compatibility with the tile or stone, always verify results with a small test area.

The best way to avoid grout haze is to do a thorough cleaning and inspection on the day of the installation.

Clorox and Soft Scrub are registered trademarks of The Clorox Company

* United States Patent No.: 6,881,768 (and other Patents)

Technical Data Sheets are subject to change without notice. For latest revision, check our website at www.laticrete.com
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