



Best Practices for Installing ROCK-TRED CHEM-THANE WB, ELASTI-FLEX WB and CHEM-THANE 509 Urethanes

ROCK-TRED manufactures several high performance urethane finish coats. All have high durability, excellent UV resistance and color/gloss retention as well as high abrasion and scratch/scuff resistance. CHEM-THANE WB is available in Clear Gloss, Satin or Matte. The ELASTI-FLEX WB comes in clear Gloss or Matte. CHEM-THANE 509 is available in clear or factory pigmented solid colors that are available in Gloss or Satin formulations. Some of the Chem-Thane 509 versions require minimum orders. Review the Tech Data Sheets for each product for more info.

Here are some tips to remember when installing any of ROCK-TRED's urethane formulations.

- Ditch the squeegee! Long working times and the requirement for 3-5 wet mils per coat means you should apply ROCK-TRED CHEM-THANE urethane finishes by dip and roll. We recommend using 5/16" microfiber roller covers for both our 509 and WB series urethanes. If you think you are applying it thin enough remember that 4 mils is 1/250th of an inch so it should feel like you're almost putting nothing down on the floor.
- Never let your roller cover dry out! Dip and roll only with a wet roller cover. If the cover is too dry it will pull off too much material leaving uneven areas.
- Prevent pile ups! Planning your finish rolling strategy based on the layout of the room can help eliminate start and stop marks. When you roll out a thin mil coating its best to lay out the material in one pass and then perform a 2nd finishing roll to even things out. Both the initial and finish applications should be done in the same direction if possible and the finish roll should be done in single passes. Do not "W" roll the floor for either pass as its likely to streak. It is typically best to let the room layout determine the direction of the rolling. Choose to layout and finish roll in a direction that will allow you to roll from one edge of the room to the opposite edge of the room in a single pass and without picking up or starting or stopping the roller. Eliminating roller starts and stops help to prevent leaving small "piles" of material at the end of a roller stroke which often leave streaks in the floor. When working in such thin mils even a variation of a few mils can leave an ugly streak in the finish.
- Avoid downward pressure with the roller. Performing your finish roll without adding downward pressure on the roller requires a light touch, but will produce great results. Don't bear down on the roller – some veteran installers will lower the roller handle to be nearly parallel with the floor to prevent any downward pressure in their finish roll pass. Having a light touch in the finish roll makes the thin mil CHEM-THANE coating as even as possible and is essential when installing MATTE/SATIN versions of CHEM-THANE.
- The CHEM-THANE WB Satin and Matte both require a more careful and even installation than other CHEM-THANE products. Whenever possible don't apply the WB Matte finish over dark colored systems. Opt for the WB Satin as the 2nd choice over a dark floor, but WG Gloss will always be the easiest to apply over a dark floor.
- Lead with your roller frame. When you're using a single sided roller frame always roll with the frame facing your next pass. The edge of the roller cover that does not have the frame should be facing your finished work. The extra weight of the roller frame, even though it not much, will leave a very slightly thicker amount of material on the floor compared to the open side of the roller cover. This pitfall can be avoided completely by using a dual sided roller frame.
- When working with CHEM-THANE 509 be sure to have some ventilation and indirect air flow. Stagnant air in the work area is not only dangerous to installers due to the fumes, but can also lead to solvent entrapment in the coating which will result in premature yellowing of the product.