Ovation Concrete Countertop Sealer™

The simple sealer for everyone.

INSTRUCTIONS

Version 1.1.1

IMPORTANT: Watch all instructional videos at www.ConcreteCountertopInstitute.com/Ovation

Introduction:

Ovation is an advanced, single component, water-based concrete sealer that is easy to apply and dries rapidly. It is water-clear, UV-stable and food safe once fully cured. Ovation self-cures to provide early chemical and stain resistance that is superior to ordinary acrylic sealers. It is safe to use inside and on exterior projects. Ovation is slightly color-enhancing and dries to a pleasing satin sheen.

Coverage:

Coverage depends upon concrete porosity and the number of coats applied. On well-made GFRC and similarly dense concrete surfaces, expect about 100 square feet of coverage for 4 coats per 16 ounce bottle of Ovation. Highly porous concrete could yield about 50 square feet per bottle.

For GFRC or dense concrete:

- 4 ounces of Ovation mixed with 2 ounces of water makes 6 ounces of sealer.
- This will cover about 25 square feet with 4 coats of sealer (or about 6.25 sq ft per coat).

- 120 mL of Ovation mixed with 60 mL of water makes 180 mL of sealer.
- This will cover about 2.36 sq meters (25.4 square feet) with 4 coats of sealer (or about 0.59 sq m, or 6.25 sq ft per coat).

Porous concrete may get half the coverage.

Tools and Materials:

You will need to round up some basic tools before you get started. Here is a list of things to have on hand:

- Measuring cups or syringes, or something that will measure a few cups, tablespoons, or milliliters
- Quart/liter sized mixing containers
- Mixing implement such as spoon or spatula
- High-density foam rollers in 2”, 4” and/or 6” sizes (CCI brand strongly recommended)
- Small spray bottle
- 1000 grit sandpaper
- Lint-free shop towels or microfiber cloths
- Plastic bag for roller storage
- Clean, potable water

Clean measuring and mixing tools with water. Wipe up spills before they dry.

STEP ONE- Surface Preparation:

Surface preparation is critical for proper adhesion and performance. Please see www.concretecountertopinstitute.com/sealer-surface-prep for detailed instructions.

STEP TWO- Shake and Dilute:

SHAKE BOTTLE WELL!

It is important to shake the bottle well before use to incorporate the matting agent.

Dilution

Ovation should be diluted with water before use. This helps spread it evenly to achieve a smooth, attractive finish. All coats of Ovation are diluted the same way.

- First shake well. Then **measure 2 parts of Ovation and mix in 1 part water**. Stir.
- Can be used immediately (does not need an induction time). Diluted material can be stored for future use.
- Example: Measure 2 cups of Ovation and add 1 cup of water to make 3 cups of sealer.

Dampen Foam Roller

Wet the roller and squeeze out as much moisture as possible. It should be slightly damp, not saturated wet.

STEP THREE- Application:

Ovation is applied to the concrete by spraying diluted sealer onto the surface (an ordinary small spray bottle works well) and then spreading with a foam roller.

It is best to work in smaller, more manageable areas instead of trying to seal the whole surface at once. Spray and backroll each section before moving on to the adjacent section and blend the new section into the wet edge of the previous section while the sealer is still wet and fluid. This prevents lines.

Apply 4 coats to achieve optimal protection. Do not apply fewer than 3 coats.

The best results are achieved by using CCI brand foam rollers that are rinsed and wrung out between coats.

Right after applying each coat, be sure to rinse out the roller well with clear water to remove all traces of sealer. Or, you can store it in an airtight zip top bag. If a used roller is not rinsed clean or stored airtight, the sealer will dry up on the surface of the roller and create debris that will contaminate the newly applied finish. Ensure the rinsed roller is thoroughly squeezed out before using it again.

Tip: The following are very important factors to being successful with Ovation:

- Work in small sections. Spray and backroll each section and blend new section into wet edge of previous section.
- Work fast
- Leave a very thin, shiny wet film after backrolling
- NEVER, ever go back over an area that's started to dull or dry

First Coat:

The first coat is always applied heavier than subsequent coats because the concrete is unsealed and porous. If the surface has visible pinholes or voids, spend time working the excess liquid sealer into the voids using the roller, ensuring they are full of sealer.

- Spray a generous amount of diluted sealer onto the concrete and spread out over a manageable area using a pre-dampened foam roller.
- Spread the sealer out over a small area until the surface is evenly wet with sealer. Do not try to spread it too thin, as the sealer will dry out.
- Apply very little pressure to the roller and don't move it fast to spread out the sealer, as this will cause excessive foaming. It's normal to see bubbles.
- Keep the surface wet with sealer while rolling. Do not let the finish start to dry before you stop rolling. Add a bit more sealer if some areas begin to dry out.

Once the surface is saturated and any pinholes are full of sealer, lightly back roll the surface. Squeeze out the sealer in the roller for reuse if the foam roller is very wet with sealer.

- Quickly back roll the surface to knock down larger bubbles and even out any roller marks or puddles. Use very light pressure when back rolling. The surface should still be wet and shiny with sealer when you're done.
- Stop rolling while some smaller bubbles still remain. The sealer will flow and even out on its own after you stop back rolling as long as there's enough fluid sealer on the surface. It's better to leave some bubbles in a wet layer of sealer (first coat only).
- Do not over back roll or go back over a surface that is partially dry, as you'll introduce texture.

Repeat the process until the whole surface has its first coat applied to it.

- Allow the first coat to dry for no less than 1 to 2 hours. The concrete must appear fully dry and no areas should be damp or dark from moisture from the diluted sealer.
- Rinse the roller clean with water between coats.

Second, Third and Fourth Coats:

- Use 1000 grit sandpaper (1200 to 1500 also works) to lightly knock down rough spots before applying a new coat of finish.
- Less sealer is needed to coat a similar area after the first coat has dried.
- A spray bottle works well to distribute the sealer prior to spreading and backrolling with a foam roller.
- There is no need to spend time working the sealer into the already-sealed surface. Simply apply, spread, and quickly and lightly backroll, leaving the surface wet with a thin layer of sealer.
- Stop rolling when no bubbles remain. The sealer will flow and even out on its own after you stop back rolling, as long as the sealer is still wet and shiny.
- Allow each additional coat to dry for at least 1/2 hour.

Drying between coats is especially important for Ovation to work well, and heavier applications take much longer to dry. Keep coats thin. Allow 30 minutes to 1 hour in between thin coats, double that for heavy coats. A fan helps speed drying.

Use 1000 grit sandpaper (1200 to 1500 also works) to lightly knock down rough spots between coats. This may dull the surface, but recoating will cover up the sanded spots. Do not use sandpaper coarser than 1000 grit. Use a dry microfiber cloth to remove sanding dust.

If you need to apply a new coat of sealer over Ovation that's more than 24 hours old, simply lightly scuff the surface with 1000 grit sandpaper to evenly dull the surface prior to cleaning and sealing.

STEP FOUR- Curing:

Allow the finish to cure for at least 48 hours before transportation, installation, and gentle use. Full cure at ambient room temperatures occurs in about 7 days. Aggressive testing and harsh real-world use should not occur before 7 days after final application.

NOTES:

Performance Expectations

Allow the finish to cure for at least 48 hours before transportation, installation, and gentle use. Ovation reaches its full cure after about 7 days under normal interior room conditions. Colder and damper environments will slow the cure. Excessively heavy coats or short drying times between coats will slow the cure and may result in poor performance.

Ovation was formulated to balance ease of use, performance and economy. It will resist most household food items and cleaners (including red wine and lemon juice) for reasonable periods of time (up to one hour or longer), but it's recommended to take care and responsibility for the preservation of your concrete and its finish by cleaning up spills right away with a non-abrasive household cleaner such as Windex. Stains (discolorations from mustard, fruit, etc.) are often superficial and don't penetrate down to the concrete, and they can easily be bleached out with household bleach.

Ovation is not heat resistant. Use trivets; do not put hot pots on it, including slow cookers.

Ovation is a coating. Do not cut on it. Do not drag rough, sharp or very heavy objects over it as this will scratch the surface. Ovation is softest and most vulnerable before full cure, so take care during the first week after sealing.

Damage can be sanded out and more Ovation applied to the damaged area. Spot repairs may be visible, so to prevent the repair from standing out it's recommended to seal the whole slab, seam to seam.

Ovation is a breathable coating. Moisture will slowly pass through the sealer and may temporarily darken the underlying concrete. Once the surface is dried off the concrete will dry out and return to normal. This is very similar to the behavior of many granites.

Ovation won't yellow from UV exposure so it can be used both inside and outside.

Product Storage

Ovation, either full strength or diluted, can be stored in an airtight container for up to 2 years.

Store at room temperature. Do not store it in hot conditions or in a refrigerator, and never let it freeze.

Cleaning

Clean measuring and mixing tools and foam roller with water. Wipe up spills before they dry.

Optionally, tools (except foam roller) may be cleaned with acetone. Use industrial acetone, not nail polish remover.

Summary of Ovation Mixing and Application Instructions

Surface Preparation

- See www.concretecountertopinstitute.com/sealer-surface-prep

Shake and Dilute

- Shake bottle well
- Mix 2 parts Ovation with 1 part water
- Dampen foam roller

Application: First Coat

- Work in small sections, but maintain a wet edge
- Spray a generous amount of sealer on a small section of the surface
- Spread with a pre-dampened foam roller
- Saturate and work the sealer into the surface
- Quickly and lightly backroll with a foam roller
- Stop rolling while some smaller bubbles still remain
- Once entire surface is coated, allow to dry for 1-2 hours

Application: Second, Third and Fourth Coats

- Rinse foam roller clean with water between coats, or store in a zip top bag
- Sand rough spots with 1000 grit sandpaper before each coat
- Work in small sections, but maintain a wet edge
- Spray a moderate amount of sealer on a small section of the surface
- Spread with a pre-dampened foam roller
- Quickly and lightly backroll with a foam roller
- Stop rolling when no bubbles remain
- Once entire surface is coated, allow to dry for 1-2 hours