



Omega Concrete Countertop Sealer™ SCRATCH REPAIR PROCESS

Your concrete countertops are protected with the most advanced sealing system in the industry, Omega Concrete Countertop Sealer, brought to you by The Concrete Countertop Institute. Omega is a food safe coating that provides excellent stain and acid resistance so that you have a worry-free countertop surface.

But life happens, and scratches can occur. Just like with a new car, the first scratch on your countertops is heartbreaking. But because Omega Concrete Countertop Sealer™ is forgiving, it's not the end of the world. You can, within a few minutes and with a couple simple items, repair a scratch to make it blend in, and more importantly, restore the protection to your concrete.

First, determine what kind of scratch you have. The most common type of scratch only affects the Omega and does not penetrate down into the concrete itself. The second type (the more serious kind), cuts through Omega and gets down to bare concrete. It's easy to tell by simply wetting the scratch with water. If the scratch darkens, then the scratch penetrated down into the concrete. If it doesn't, then there's still a thin layer of Omega protecting the concrete, and the scratch is purely aesthetic.

The key to dealing with scratches is to take care of them as soon as they occur. A scratch that penetrates into the concrete itself makes the concrete vulnerable to stains. Bear in mind, Omega completely protects your concrete from stains, but a deep scratch that cuts through the protective sealer and into the underlying bare concrete will allow liquids like oil to penetrate and stain. Oil stains are the most difficult to get out of concrete, so repairing the scratches as soon as they occur is the best method for keeping your concrete looking like new. Keep an eye out for any scratches and fix them right away.

What you'll need

- Green Scotchbrite scrubby pad
- Rounded wooden toothpick
- Small piece of aluminum foil (3" by 3")
- Automotive clearcoat touch up paint pen



Step One: Prepare the Surface

First, clean the area well to remove grease, oil and dirt. Rubbing alcohol and acetone (not nail polish remover, as it often has dye that will discolor the concrete) are excellent cleaners. Allow the surface and the scratch are completely clean and dry before proceeding. It may take a few hours to dry out if the scratch is dark from moisture. Neither acetone nor rubbing alcohol will damage Omega.

Step Two: Fill the Scratch

- Shake the clearcoat paint pen well, according to its instructions.
- Dispense a drop of clear coat onto the aluminum foil.
- Dip the toothpick into the clearcoat and use it to fill the scratch. The toothpick minimizes the spillover of clearcoat outside the scratch and makes cleanup easier.
- Allow each coat to dry and repeat until the scratch is filled.
- Once fully dry, use the green Scotchbrite pad to lightly buff the repaired scratches and blend the sheen to match the surrounding sealer.

Just like touching up the paint on your car, this will restore protection and blend in well, but it will not look brand new. No well-used and well-loved surface in your house looks brand new forever, but your concrete countertops will give you years of excellent service.

Dealing with Stains

Your Care and Maintenance Guide explains what to do if the Omega surface itself stains due to aggressive staining agents such as mustard. The following instructions pertain to the case where a staining agent or oil gets through a scratch in Omega and stains the bare concrete.

Stains in the concrete due to a staining agent such as mustard can be removed using the same bleaching method explained in your Care and Maintenance Guide.

Oil Stains:

Oil stains are more challenging to remove, because the oil must be drawn out. A good poultice for the removal of oil stains is a combination of baking soda and acetone, mixed into a peanut-butter-like paste. Use straight acetone from a home center or paint store, not nail polish remover, because nail polish remover often has dyes in it.

Spread the poultice on the oil spot to a thickness of about ¼ inch (6mm), then cover with plastic wrap taped down to seal in the poultice.

Generally, you need to leave this mixture on for 24 hours to give the acetone enough time to work on the oil and make it easier for the absorbent material to draw the oil out of the concrete. After 24 hours have passed, remove the plastic and allow the poultice to dry. This is when the oil is drawn out of the concrete, so patience here pays off. Stubborn oil stains can take multiple applications of poultice to completely remove.

Acetone will not damage Omega, but many other sealers are damaged by acetone, so don't try this method with other sealers unless you verify first with your installer.