

Contractor Blog

Tire Marks On Stained Concrete Driveways



It is virtually impossible to prevent tire marks from forming on driveways that have been stained or sealed with a product that contains acrylic and/or solvent components. Since most of today's higher quality solvent based stains and sealers contain hydrocarbons in the form of Xylene and acrylic resin, it is highly probable that tire marks will form if the family vehicles are allowed to sit on the driveway, for any appreciable amount of time. The problem does not entirely lie with hot tires, although this condition does hasten the tire marking process along, the problem lies within the chemistry of the tire itself.

Automobile tires are a blend of a number of ingredients. The primary components are rubber, aromatic oils, wax and plasticizers. Pure rubber is hard, and as such, aromatic oils and plasticizers must be added to make the rubber soft. The wax is used to give the tire sidewalls protection and resiliency. This soft blended rubber is what provides a comfortable ride and improved performance. Unfortunately, the oil, plasticizer and wax have the ability to migrate from the tire if the right conditions exist. One of these conditions is the presence of Xylene solvent and acrylic resin in driveway coatings. Those black tire marks that you see on the driveway are mostly the oils and plasticizers and only a small amount of rubber. The oils and plasticizers are drawn to the hydrocarbons in the solvent and acrylic much the same way that water is drawn into a dry sponge. The good news is that these oils and plasticizers are only on the surface of the pigmented sealers and not penetrated into the concrete, and can be easily removed. Liquid dishwashing soap and a stiff bristled brush, such as the Advanced acid brush, it usually all that is needed to remove these marks.

Make your customers aware that tire marks will show on their newly stained driveway. Let them know that their driveway is an area that must be maintained on a monthly basis in order to keep it looking fresh and new, much the same as they wash or vacuum their interior floors. If you let them know the cause of these tire marks, that they are unavoidable and the method of removing them, you will have fewer call backs.

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