



**A series of technical bulletins from SEK-Surebond...  
“Achieving Installation Perfection”**

**TB.5 The Art of Flood Coating Joint Stabilizing Sealers**

**Flood Coating:  
When “A Lot” Of A  
Good Thing is  
Not Too Much!**

Most joint stabilizing sealers available for hardscapes have instructions that specify a flood coat application. However, it can be hard to determine when enough sealer is enough.

**What does a flood coat look like? Can it be quantified?**

As is the case with most joint stabilizing sealers, flood coating with a siphon pump, approved bulk sprayer or handheld garden sprayer is the best method for application. The reason for this is the sealer has two jobs: **1.** seal the surface and **2.** stabilize (harden) the joint sand. A flood coat applied correctly will provide enough coverage to seal the surface and saturate the sand, resulting in a protected surface and a solid joint of bonded sand particles.

The first step in making sure you are applying enough sealer is to check coverage guidelines on the label or technical data sheet for the type of material the sealer will be applied to. Factors such as type of material, age, condition, joint size, porosity of surface and weather conditions (extreme heat) can affect actual coverage. Be aware of the square footage of your project and follow the manufacturer's instructions to apply the sealer per the recommended coverage range. The following installation guidelines will help achieve the proper coverage.

- Apply a flood coat of sealer with a sprayer in a manageable 10' x 10' area, watch for indicators that your project may require more/less sealer such as the surface quickly absorbing the sealer or excessive pooling of sealer on the surface. Using a neoprene squeegee, move the sealer over the surface and direct the excess sealer into the joints.
- Care must be taken to not allow sealer to pool on the surface or in the joints. Puddles of sealer on the surface could result in visual surface inconsistency. Pooling in the joints may cause joint sand to flow back onto the surface and if allowed to dry will adhere to the top of the pavers.
- When moving sealer into the joint sand, use a technique that allows time for the sealer to penetrate and absorb into the joint sand. We suggest pulling the squeegee on an angle across the top of the pavers.
- Back rolling with a split foam roller should be done to remove any excess material from the surface. Check your joints using a screw driver or large nail to be sure the joint sand is wet all the way through the joint. Replace the sand back into the joint after you check.
- Make adjustments with your application rate if you find that your surface requires more or less sealer.

After application of a few sealer jobs, you will achieve the right installation techniques that will move you closer and closer to achieving installation perfection.

**These technique tips will help you  
achieve “installation perfection”  
now and into the future.**