



Technical Bulletin # 101

RE: EVERWHITE 932 and COLORSET 931 Discoloration

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EVERWHITE 932 and COLORSET 931 Discoloration -- Covering the causes of certain discoloring problems and the recommended solutions to insure a quality installation.

Occasionally after installation and acceptance of the color and appearance, ColorSet 931 and EverWhite 932 grouts experience surface discoloration. This discoloration is normally due to inadequate maintenance practices and environmental conditions beyond our control. Surface discoloration includes accumulation of dirt, dust, grease, colored cleanser dyes, cleaner residues, food stains, mineral deposits, foot traffic or poor housekeeping practices. Residues from these substances get trapped within the surface texture but do not penetrate into the matrix.

Usually, removal of the discoloration can be accomplished by vigorous brushing with a white kitchen cleanser or heavy-duty liquid household cleaner such as 409. Discoloration from chemical sources such as paints and iodine may require use of a stripper. We recommend the environmentally safe **3M™ Safest Stripper™**.

Some jobs have experienced discoloration due to installation practices. We have experienced such problems as:

- 1) Using contaminated wash water and inadvertently capping joints with the resultant slurry.
- 2) Leaving out all or portions of powder part "C", particularly for EverWhite 932.

- 3) Cleaning or washing the grouts with acids, or heavy-duty cleaners to maintain the floor prior to full cure of the grout (7 days).
- 4) Cleaning with acid immediately after grouting.
- 5) Using household or auto wax as a grout release. The color of the wax gets trapped in the epoxy surface.
- 6) Grouting with the epoxy over tiles set into wet or uncured mastic. Solvents migrate up and deposit as a yellow cast on the surface as the epoxy cures.
- 7) Leaving stripper on too long and not removing residue.
- 8) Using sponge contaminated with epoxy grout residue to tool joints during final cleaning. Sponge contamination being present when the sponge feels soft and "sticky".

Strict adherence to application instructions is absolutely necessary to insure that the surface of the epoxy grout does not become soft and/or porous, thereby averting further chances of staining.

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