

## **Cleaning and Sealing Concrete**

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*Cleaning and sealing is better than repeated pressure washing or acid washing.*

After the last ARC inspection there were questions about issuing notices to homeowners who had rust stains on their sidewalks or driveways. This we all know is a common problem due to the soil makeup we have here in Florida. Many individuals have taken the time to pressure wash and acid wash those areas of the sidewalk or driveway, only to have the rust return quickly.

To make matters worse, every time you pressure-wash or acid-wash you remove another fine layer of the concrete, which makes the concrete more porous. Thus any chemicals that spill onto the concrete will stain the area much faster and make it more difficult to remove the next time.

After trying all of the same things I mentioned above, I found a solution that works, using products sold by Home Depot.

Clean with BEHR Concrete Etcher & Rust Remover

Seal with H&C Silicone Concrete Sealer / Clear

Cleaning the area with the BEHR product does not remove as much concrete as either pressure washing or acid washing would. Once the area has dried, take a paint roller and generously apply the H&C Sealer.

The sealer penetrates well and will close up the open pores of the concrete. Once dried, the sidewalk or driveway does not look any different than it did before, but the sealer will keep rust from adhering to the concrete the next time it rains or the sprinkler is on.

Please share this with any of your neighbors who might be experiencing this problem.

*Ron Wiley*