

its effectiveness is much shorter in terms of years as free lime reacts with other pozzolana and additives. On the other hand, unhydrated cement remains longer in the concrete.

Another chemical parameter to check before choosing the right crystalline solution is the presence of sterates. There are certain systems that have Stearates, Silicon, Wax or bitumen emulsion either as a whole or as compounds in the waterproofing system. These systems are normally hydrophobic and act as a coating to the capillary surfaces and block some pores. And while these might be a preferred solution by many, sterates have a negative impact on the structure and do not work under the high hydrostatic head. These compounds produce the compressive strength typically 10 to 15 % of the plain concrete and reduce the effectiveness under high hydrostatics head. Sterates do not block the entrance of water into the concrete, in fact, they affect the life of the concrete as they eat into the molecular

structure of the concrete and leave behind a void that needs to be filled by admixtures and other additives.

Recently a battle on the quantity of material (dosage) to be added to the structure has become a point of the contest, however, while choosing an effective and durable crystalline solution in large projects, does not make a huge difference given the complete life cycle and repair needs of the structure. Giving the right dosage, is the most essential part of effective waterproofing and that depends on depending on the quality of concrete, the laying practices and the specific needs of site. Trials and sampling are the ways to go forward as every site has its unique requirements.

And during these of trials and tests, it can sometimes be extremely confusing for a decision maker to compare test results of various products as the variation may be very high. But it is essential to ask a few questions before comparing 2 test results.

- Is the lab certified?
- Did the lab make the samples, or did the lab get the made samples?
- Have the reports mentioned complete details about the sample and the testing (for e.g. do they identify and describe the mix design of the sample, the process and code of testing etc.)
- Has the test been done for the correct amount of time?

Getting the right answers to these questions can lead you to the right crystalline waterproofing solution.

Also, never forget that most Crystalline products suppliers/applicators extend Warranty up to TEN years. But, the warranty only covers repairs and an ineffective crystalline solution, the damage to structure takes place internally through water seepage. By the time the signs show on the surface, the durability of the structure has already been compromised, so it is essential to identify the right crystalline waterproofing structure that stands out from the competition in chemical, physical and performance qualities. ■

Gently Remove Soil and Stains with Naturally-Derived EcoAir® BioClean Spray

EcoAir® BioClean Spray can be easily sprayed onto soiled surfaces to gently clean dirt, soil, dust, debris, and mold/mildew stains from wood, metal, plastics, and other hard surfaces. After being left to dry for 30 seconds to 10 minutes (depending on the level of contamination), the surface treated with EcoAir® BioClean Spray can be wiped with a clean, damp cloth to remove the debris or stains. No rinsing is required unless desired.

In addition to its gentle, naturally derived cleaning components, EcoAir® BioClean Spray is packaged in recyclable, convenient-to-use EcoAir® spray cans. Cortec® EcoAir® cans are powered by compressed air rather than flammable propellants or CFCs. The cans can be sprayed in any direction, even upside down, allowing for easier use when spraying on hard-to-reach soiled surfaces near corners and floors or in tight spaces. Soiled and stained surfaces in homes, warehouses, or offices are unsightly and leave an environment that encourages contaminants to collect and grow. Rather than using typically available harsh chemicals to clean them away, EcoAir® BioClean Spray is an excellent alternative for removing soil and stains. Simply spray on, allow to dry, and



then wipe the surface to promote cleaner, more visually pleasing surroundings while leaving a gentler impact on humans and the environment.