

PREPARING CHALKY SURFACES FOR PAINTING

Chalking is a term used to describe the formation of a powdery substance on the surface of paint as it is exposed to weathering. Prolonged exposure to ultraviolet sunlight accelerates chalking.

Chalking can also result when paints are applied to concrete, masonry or stucco surfaces which have not completely cured. High alkalinity of the surface can erode the paint from the inside out, making chalk resulting from this condition more severe. If moisture is present in concrete, masonry or stucco this compounds the problem further.

Higher quality paints are more chalk resistant than economy paints because higher levels of better quality resins are typically used in formulation, and pigments of high quality paints contain more titanium dioxide and less extender pigment.

Chalk will prevent adhesion of latex-based paints, and must be dealt with during preparation to prevent peeling. Two methods are typically employed: pressure washing and sealing. For severe chalk, both operations are often necessary. Pressure washers with an output of 1500 to 2500 p.s.i., are generally adequate for removing the majority of chalk from a surface. Penetrating surface conditioners, or "chalk sealers" are available in varying concentrations depending on the degree of chalk remaining on the surface following pressure washing.

Flex Bon manufactures four lines of surface-conditioners:

- Flex Bon #111-0 "Epoxy Bond" Exterior Acrylic Latex Clear Surface-Conditioner; for sealing light to moderate chalk on concrete, masonry, stucco, and metal surfaces.
- Flex Bon #110-1 "Epoxy Bond" Exterior Acrylic Latex Pigmented Surface-Conditioner; for sealing light to moderate chalk on concrete, masonry, stucco and metal surfaces. This product is pigmented to use when it is desirable to visually track uniformity of sealer application and assist in opacity of color changes.
- Flex Bon #109-0 "Epoxy Bond" Exterior Acrylic-Epoxy Clear Surface-Conditioner; for sealing moderate to heavy chalk. This product can also be thinned for use on lighter chalked surfaces. (See label for thinning recommendations.)
- Flex Bon #109-1 "Epoxy Bond" Exterior Acrylic-Epoxy Pigmented Surface-Conditioner; for sealing light to moderate chalk on concrete, masonry, stucco and metal surfaces. This product can also be thinned for use on lighter chalked surfaces. (See product label for thinning recommendations.) This product is pigmented to use where it is desirable to visually track uniformity of sealer application and assist in opacity of color changes.

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