



Application Instructions

Installation Guide for Flexstone's System X and System S

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Preparing for your Flexstone Installation:

Tools & Materials Checklist:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Flexstone Coatings products (ensure you have enough)	<input type="checkbox"/>	A minimum of 3 clean 5 gallon pails
<input type="checkbox"/>	Seam tape & trim tape for drip flashings	<input type="checkbox"/>	Variable / low speed drill & proper mixing paddle
<input type="checkbox"/>	Deep V-Notch Trowel (3/8" is Ideal - 1/2" will work)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Silica sand for slip-resistance over Standard Finish
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disposable brushes (3-4")	<input type="checkbox"/>	Xylene solvent (for cleanup)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Roller Sleeves(10mm or 18mm) & Roller Cage(9.5" - 18")	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disposable gloves (Nitrile is recommended)

**18" and 24" V-Notch Squeegees are available. These are ideal for spreading base over larger areas.*

Things to know before you start:

- Surface preparation is very important. Failure to properly prep surface could result in poor adhesion.
- Flexstone base adheres to almost any surface: wood, concrete, fiberglass & more (using #3 primer).
- Select Grade plywood is recommended – avoid pressure-treated or good-one-side, which are more expensive options.
- If pressure-treated plywood was used, use Flexstone #3 Primer-sealer to ensure good adhesion & prevent off-gassing.
- Base Coat does not adhere well to smooth surfaces. Rough up metal flashings with grinder &/or coarse sandpaper.
- When in doubt, use our #3 primer/sealer first or test for adhesion by applying some base coat on a small area.
- Flexstone Base is a solvent-free urethane. Use a #3 primer/sealer when you have any doubt about your substrate.

Product Overview: System X and System S

System X - Required Components:

Flexstone #3 Epoxy Primer/Sealer
2:1 Mix (2 Parts A / 1 Part B)
Used over concrete or pressure-treated plywood

Flexstone HD Base Coat
4:1 Mix (4 Parts Base / 1 Part Water)

Flexstone AR Colour Coat – Seals base and hold chips
1 Part Urethane (mix thoroughly before applying)

Flexstone Colour Flakes
Pre-mixed blends: Broadcast into wet AR colour coat

Flexstone Clear Coat
1 Part Urethane (mix thoroughly before applying)

Flexstone: System X Diagram

The diagram (right) illustrates the layers employed in a typical Flexstone System X application on standard grade plywood.

The System S system is very similar, except that instead of Chips, AR colour coat and Clear Coat; the installer will use 20-30 grit silica sand and AL Colour Coat (UV Stable).

System S - Required Components

Flexstone #3 Epoxy Primer/Sealer
2:1 Mix (2 Parts A / 1 Part B)
Used over concrete or pressure-treated plywood

Flexstone HD Base Coat
4:1 Mix (4 Parts Base / 1 Part Water)

Flexstone AL Colour Coat
1 Part Urethane (mix thoroughly before applying)

20-30 Grit Silica Sand
Installed with AL Colour for slip resistance



Figure 1: System X Components

Surface Preparation:

Cleaning & Preparing your Surface for Flexstone Application:

- Standard or select-grade plywood is recommended. Find sheets with minimal imperfections.
- Coatings do not adhere as well to smooth surfaces
- Ensure that the all surfaces are clean (free of dust, debris, oils) and imperfections have been filled with base coat.
- The surface must be clean and dry (no dust or oils). Plywood surfaces do not require priming (unless pressure treated).
- Smooth concrete & metal flashings should be roughed up or primed.
- Use Flexstone #3 primer/sealer on smooth or contaminated concrete as well as pressure-treated plywood. If concrete is on grade with trapped water below priming is recommended to avoid blisters.

Preparing a Plywood Surface (5/8"-3/4" T&G is common):

Where "Tongue & Groove" joints do not exist, leave a 1/16" expansion gap between square edges or butt joints.

Do not let base coat to get into expansion gaps as it will protrude when plywood swells and gaps close in humid weather.

If tongue & groove joints are tight, seam-taping should not be necessary. Fill with thickened base coat instead. Use 3" seam tape when it doubt.

Use our special 3" adhesive backed fabric seam tape over open plywood expansion gaps and flatten out.

Mix a small amount of base coat with water until water (4:1 ratio) and press base through seam tape with the flat edge of a trowel or putty knife to ensure it adheres permanently.

Ensure that your seams are flat and flush with the rest of the deck surface before moving ahead with the base coat.

For knot-holes, large splinters, deep screw holes, etc. Pre-mix a small amount of base coat and smooth over imperfections with a flat trowel or spatula.

Preparing for over Concrete or Old Coatings:

Ensure that the existing membrane is adhered well to substrate before proceeding. Scrape or grind if needed.

For any smooth surface, concrete surface or substrate you are not sure of; using the #3 Primer/Sealer is recommended.

If fiberglass is not stuck down well in some areas, use small ring nails to flatten and secure to the surface.

Vinyl often shrinks at walls and curls up on perimeter drip-edge flashings. Cut at walls and surface past drip flashings and replace with new drip flashings.

With thick vinyl where high seams exist, grind them down a bit or cut them out & fill the void with mixed Flexstone Base coat. Ensure the rest of the vinyl is well adhered.

Exterior tiles must be clean & dry. Use our #3 Primer/Sealer on smooth tiles to ensure adhesion and to seal grout lines.

When coating over old urethanes, lightly wipe the surface with 'Xylene'. This gently dissolves & softens the top layer slightly to ensure good adhesion.

Preparing the Perimeter:

THIS SECTION IS VERY IMPORTANT

Drip Flashings for Outside Perimeter

- When water drains off the edge of the deck, install a 2" x 2" (standard 30 gauge - available at most lumber yards) drip-edge flashing. See Blog on flexstones.ca for tips joining outside vertical edges.
- Use small flat-head ring nails to secure the flashing. Keep the nails 4"- 5" apart to prevent buckling to allow water to drain freely over top of the drip edge (drywall nails will work for this application).
- Rough up the top of the drip-edge with 30-40 Grit sandpaper to ensure good adhesion of the base coat.

Sealing Walls, Posts, and Vertical Surfaces

- Flexstone base coat can be thickened with fine rubber for going up vertical surfaces and filling low spots
- At vertical surfaces, apply the thickened base-coat up walls under stucco or siding using a brush or trowel. If spaces exist at the wall, you can use adhesive seam tape to bridge the gaps. Engineers prefer reinforcing at walls so it is a good idea to use the seam tape in these cases.
- New Construction: it is required that the base is installed up the wall 8" and our seam/reinforcing tape is used.

Building a Tape-Wall around the Outside Edge

- In order to prevent product from running over the edge and on to your new flashing, tape the perimeter using 3" poly tape (available at Flexstone). Leave a lip of around 1" above the deck surface to create a barrier to prevent materials from spilling over the edge.

Preparing your Seams / Installing Seam Tape (plywood applications):

Before you move ahead with the spreading of base coat, you must properly prepare the seams in your plywood. A well prepared seam will prevent product from spilling through the expansion gaps. Properly prepared seams will also prevent visible plywood seams (either sunken or proud) from forming on your new deck surface.

In order to mitigate movement in your plywood substrate, ensure that the sheets have been glued and screwed to the surface thoroughly so that it is not lifting or shifting on the joists.

Standard Plywood Seams (and Butt-Ends of Tongue & Groove Plywood):

Non-T&G expansion gaps should be taped. Using a combination of one of our approved white seam tapes (3" adhesive back or 4" reinforced bamilex) and our Flexstone base coat, you can effectively bridge gaps and ensure that product will not depress or get pushed out of the seams.

Adhesive Back Seam-Tape (3" x 108')

1. The adhesive back seam tape is a thin and porous fabric material with an adhesive on one side. This tape is pressed over expansion gaps on clean dust-free plywood.
2. Once secured, mix a small amount of base coat with water (4 parts base, 1 part water). With a putty knife or trowel, spread the base coat over the tape – using pressure to ensure that it is penetrating through the tape and creating a bond to the plywood.
3. Allow the base coat to cure sufficiently before spreading your base coat over the surface with your V Notch trowel. Ensure that the seams have an opportunity to form a bond and solidify before moving ahead.
4. For tight tongue and groove joints, you can omit the seam tape and simply fill the seam with base coat using a putty knife or flat trowel.



Figure 2: Installing Seam Tape



Figure 3: Finished Seam Tape

Tongue-and-Groove Joints:

Tongue and groove joints in plywood, when properly installed (glued, screwed and tight), are designed to accommodate typical expansion and contraction on a deck surface. It is not necessary to tape these seams. Simply fill the seams with some pre-mixed base coat (4 parts base / 1 part water) using a putty knife. Smooth out the seams to ensure that they are not creating visible humps.

Allow the seams to solidify (2-4 hours) before installing the Flexstone base coat layer atop of it.

Seam Taping Wall Transitions:

Some projects require reinforcing fabric or scrim on transitions between deck-surfaces and exterior walls. The adhesive-back seam tape can easily be pressed into the vertical and horizontal sections you want to reinforce. Follow the same instructions to ensure that the tape is properly bonded to the plywood on both the wall and deck surface.

This step is not always required – The Flexstone System is thick, flexible, and resilient enough that reinforcing fabric does not contribute much to the strength or integrity of the product; however, engineers prefer to see reinforcing tape.

It is important to ensure that the installed seam-tape is as flush with the deck-surface as possible. If there is excess base coat on or around the seams after the tape has been secured; spread it away from the seam as thin as possible to avoid any lumps or elevated areas.

Mixing the Base Coat (Quick-setting)

THIS SECTION IS VERY IMPORTANT

Ratio

4:1 (4 parts Base – 1 part water)

Coverage:

150-160 sq ft per 5 Gallon pail | 30 Sq/Ft per mixed Gallon (1 Sheet of plywood)

Pre-Mixing the Base Coat

New Pails of Flexstone Base coat must be mixed thoroughly (approximately 5 minutes), prior to use. This helps to blend in the resins & polymers that settle at the bottom of the pail so the entire mix is the same consistency when the water is added.

Flexstone's unique solvent-free Base coat is much thicker than all other urethanes and must be mixed with water in order to cure. If you apply base coat without water, it will not cure and will have to be removed.

Catalyst Vials (optional):

A Small Vial of Green catalyst is available for each pail of Flexstone Base to help it reach a full cure quicker. This is ideal for time-sensitive jobs and colder climates; however, in hot temperatures, the vials can be omitted as base may set up too fast.



Figure 4: Base Coat Pail

Mixing Base Coat – Precautions

- When mixing the water (1 part) in with the base coat (4 parts), the two components will not blend immediately. Mix thoroughly on slow - medium speed using a variable-speed drill and mixing paddle until the base has absorbed all the water (1-2 minutes). Mixing too fast can create air-bubbles which can be problematic when spreading.
- Do not increase the amount of water added. Base Coat rejects excess water and speeds up the set-up time.
- Once the base coat has been thoroughly pre-mixed and then mixed with water (Reminder: 4 Parts Base / 1 Part Water), it is designed to set up quickly to resist damage from rain. Pour and spread the mix immediately and as fast as possible with your Flexstone 3/8" V-Notched trowel or squeegee to ensure all of it self-levels (see 'Spreading Base' section).
- Mix base and water into your first pail then pour the mixture on surface scraping out as much as possible from inside the pail. Then leave the pail upside down to drain on the next section you plan to coat. Do not add water to the next mix until prior mix has been spread or is nearly spread.

Mixing Base Coat – Important Tips:

- Prepare a minimum of three clean & empty 5-gallon pails; one for holding water and 2 for mixing Flexstone base.
- Do not add new base into used pail without scraping/cleaning the residue from your previous batch. Leaving the pail upside down over your next section will help ensure that it drains and is empty for the next batch. Excess residue from previous batches, if not scraped out, may form chunks in your next batch.
- Hot temperatures / hot surfaces will cause the base-coat to set up faster. **You can slow this process by adding ice blocks to the water used for mixing and keeping pails of base cool prior to installation.**
- Installation is easier with two people. One person dedicated to preparing and mixing batches in small quantities (max 2 gallons), and another to spread the material.
- Mixers should not add water to a batch until the spreader has finished (or nearly finished) spreading the previous batch.
- Start small (1 Gal base & 1 Qt water) to track how much you can apply within 5-10 mins. Once you know how much can be mixed & spread before it starts to set up, increase the batch accordingly (**Max: 2 – 2.5 gallons**). You should get about **30 square feet of coverage per gallon of mixed base coat (approximately 1 sheet of plywood)**.
- Save plastic base pails for future jobs or for storing leftover colour (or clear) coat. Cured base can be easily peeled out and used for samples. Do not stack pails with wet base in them, they will bond together.

Installing the Flexstone Base Coat – First Steps:

- Plan your coating strategy before you start. Choose sections according to the size of your mixture (2 Gallon mix = 60 square feet or 2 sheets of plywood). Ensure that you work your way towards an exit.
- Start with seam-tape: Smooth out the adhesive back seam tape over all plywood seams. Ensure that there are no creases, wrinkles or air bubbles trapped under the tape.
- Mix a small amount of base coat with water (4:1 mix). Using the flat edge of your trowel or a putty-knife spread a thin layer of base coat over the seam tape. Only use as much as you need to keep the tape in place – it will absorb the base creating a permanent bond to your plywood.
- Using the same mixed base – use your trowel or putty knife to fill any knot holes, deep screw holes, splintered plywood or any other depressed sections of the deck. Remove or smooth out any excess base coat so you are not creating humps.



Figure 5 - Installing Red Poly Perimeter tape



Figure 6 - Waterproofing verticals (door sill)

- Using thickened base coat (*mix 25% powdered rubber to your catalyzed base coat or allow base coat to thicken naturally*) apply the material up vertical surfaces. You can install up verticals using a putty knife, flat trowel, brush or spatula.
 - Pay attention to the walls you have coated to ensure it has not slumped or dripped.
 - Smooth out excess material on the horizontal areas to ensure you have a smooth tapered transition.
- Drip edge flashing should be roughed-up on the top-side to ensure good adhesion. You can achieve this by grinding the top side until it has a coarse texture.
- Install the red poly tape around the outside perimeter. Most of the tape on the vertical surface should stick up around 1" above flashings to prevent coating from dripping over the edge.
- Pour a small stream of mixed base & water along the surface next to the flashing. Using the flat edge of your trowel push the base coat over top of flashing towards the Red tape wall (but not against the tape). Using flat edge again gently pull the base coat back towards the surface about 2" past drip flashing and then flatten or feather out base on the plywood.

Alternative Perimeter Method:

- Installers have the option of spreading the base over the entire surface within the red tape-wall. The following day, the base coat will have cured and climbed the tape wall slightly creating a ridge around the perimeter.
- Using a hook-blade (pictured), simply trim the top half of the tape and the base coat ridge around the perimeter – keeping the blade angled towards the outside edge. This will help create an even taper around the deck perimeter.
- The remaining tape (on the face of the flashing) will protect the flashing from the following finish coats.



Figure 7 - Hook Blade

Installing the Flexstone Base Coat – Floating out the Membrane:

Quick Facts:

- Must move fast when applying the base once water is absorbed (self leveling mode)
- Base coat should self-level to 63 Mils (1/16") thickness (this is thicker than most vinyls)
- Flexstone's System X should total = 80 - 100mils thickness (this is twice the thickness of other seamless coatings)
- Min temperature: 5-7 degrees Celsius for 4-5 hours following application process

Flexstone Base Coat Application:

- Add 1 part water to 4 parts Flexstone Base. (You get 6.25 gals of mixed base per 5 Gallon pail of Flexstone Base). Mix the base coat and water together as per the instructions on page 5.
 - Start by mixing 1 Quart of water in to 1 Gallon of base to get the feel of spreading the base coat. Trowel out the batch quickly and allow it to self-level (don't play with it).
 - You should be achieving 30 square feet of coverage per gal. Unless you are an experienced applicator, we do not recommend mixing more than 2 Gallons of base per batch.
- Stir the base / water mixture on medium speed for a few minutes. Once water has absorbed into the base. Pour out the entire mix in an area. Spread it quickly and as evenly as possible. Move fast in order to keep the base in self-level mode.



Figure 8: Spreading Base Coat



Figure 9: Mixing Base Coat

- Try to maintain a wet edge for the next batch to flow into **when possible** and feather both edges as your mix runs out using the flat edge of your trowel. This allows you to overlap your new mix over the old again using the flat edge of your trowel, preventing a visible seam. (old mix is setting up & marks won't disappear)
- Spread the mix by grounding our custom Deep V-Notched trowel (3/8" deep teeth) spreading the base as quickly as you can. Adjust the angle of your trowel until you are achieving approximately 30 square feet per gallon of mixed base.
- If you are using a 3/16" or 1/2" trowel instead of our standard 3/8" trowels, you may need to adjust your trowel angle more or less to attain the right coverage.
- For large areas, our wider Deep V-Notched (3/8") Squeegees expedite the application process and allow the product to be spread faster while standing up. (Please discuss this with a technical rep before ordering)
- While spreading the mix, do not interrupt the self-levelling process by "playing" with base after it is spread as it self-levels. Minor imperfections can be fixed later; it is never a good idea to try to fix a section of base after it has been initially spread.
- If you encounter imperfections and/or trowel marks, they can be fixed using a belt sander or angle grinder (30 - 40 grit pads). Lightly sand or 'feather grind' imperfections and touch-up with additional base if needed. Ensure the base is fully cured (no longer tacky) before attempting to sand or grind the surface.

Base Application – Helpful Tips:

- When coating larger areas, it helps to have 2 people – 1 to mix and 1 to spread the membrane moving quickly.
- Mixing tip - To measure the mix quickly you can use a thin wood stick or dowel. Cut notches up the stick to maintain the 4 to 1 ratio of base to water (cut upwards 5.5" for 2 gallons of base and again at 7" for 2 quarts of water).
- Even if the base coat is tacky the following day you can still apply the finish coats as long as you are not sticking to the base coat. After the finish coat(s) has (have) been applied wait until they are no longer tacky before walking on it.

Working Time:

THIS SECTION IS VERY IMPORTANT

The working time between when the Flexstone base coat has absorbed the water and when it becomes too thick to self-level depends on temperature and how hot the surface is. Working time can be less than 10 minutes when the temperature outside and on the deck surface is hot. Start early in the morning and cover exposed plywood to keep it from heating up. In cooler temperatures, you will have 12-18 minutes in self-level mode.

Extending the Working Time – Important Tips:

The base coat cures at a slower pace when the components are kept cool and the deck surface and outside temperatures are cool. This gives the applicator more time to spread the product. In order to help buy yourself more time to spread the base before it sets-up, you can try the following:

- On hot days, add a block of ice to your water and use this ice-water as the catalyst. You can also cover the surface to keep it cool (preventing it from absorbing heat).
- Pre-stir all the base-coat pails thoroughly and set aside in the shade prior to starting the job to avoid wasting time during the application process.
- Keep pails in a cool dry area on site and store it in a cool room or basement prior to starting your project.
- Have your mixer refrain from adding water to the next batch before the first batch is spread (or nearly spread)
- Try to apply the base when the temperature outside is cooler. A hot plywood surface will cause it to set up quicker.
- The base coat can also be thickened with powdered rubber or fine sand to fill low spots and apply to vertical surfaces.
- Do not mix more base-coat than needed – once it has started to thicken, you have a short window when it can be applied.

Flexstone Base – Cure Time:

The cure-time for the Flexstone Base coat is generally around 24 hours on a typical summer day before you can walk on it. This time varies depending on the temperature and humidity levels. Once the membrane has solidified, it may remain tacky for several hours or following the installation depending on temperature.

Colour coat and/or coloured flake installation can be done when you can walk on the deck surface even if it is still tacky. Rolling the colour top coat(s) over a sticky surface will not affect the bond or interrupt the curing of either component.

Repairing the Flexstone Base Coat:

Before rolling out your top coat and/or distributing the blended acrylic chips, take your time conducting touch-ups (if there are any) to the base coat. The colour flakes will help to minimize the visibility of base-coat minor imperfections, but they will not hide everything.



Figure 10: Grinding Disc

If there are visible trowel marks, lumps or high-spots in your base coat, they can be taken down using an angle-grinder or belt-sander. The base coat should be hardened and no longer tacky before grinding. Identify the high-spots and ‘feather-grind’ the areas so that they are at the same level as the rest of the deck.

- *Flexstone sells inexpensive grinding discs that screw on to most angle grinders. These are ideal for grinding imperfections in Flexstone.

For low-spots where water sits and pools, or you have lower grooves from deep trowel marks, simply mix a small amount of base coat (4 parts base 1 part water) and allow it to thicken a bit to a soft-putty consistency. Using a flat-squeegee, flat trowel, or putty knife – fill the low spots so that they are flush with the deck surface.

System X – Installing the Textured Stone Finish:

Multi coloured blends of fade and fire resistant acrylic flakes (chips) are used in conjunction with the AR (aromatic) colour coat and 1-part clear urethane top coat. The AR colour coat is used as an adhesive layer to keep the decorative flakes sealed in place and to help seal the base coat.

- Using a standard 10mm roller apply a thin AR (aromatic) colour coat over the base coat. Only roll as far as you can distribute the blended chips so that you are not forced to walk atop of wet colour coat.
- While top-coat is still wet, broadcast blended chips to rejection using a small pail with holes (1/4" bit for holes) or by dispersing evenly by hand. Coat the areas you can reach with the chips and keep coating & chipping until done. Special hopper chip guns are an option for larger jobs.
- Allow colour coat to cure sufficiently (colour coat accelerators can be used to expedite this process.) Sweep off excess flakes which can be re-used.
- Using a swivel-head sander and pole, lightly sand (100-150 grit) surface to knock down any jagged chip pieces (for the comfort of bare feet) then blow off, sweep, or vacuum up the dust. You can control the level of slip-resistance by sanding more or less.
- Using a Thick Nap Roller (18mm) spread the Flexstone Clear Coat moving in all directions (like painting a wall) until every inch of exposed chips are covered evenly and consistently. Flashing and/or shiny spots can result if some sections of the clear coat are overlapped and thicker than others.
- We recommend using a thicker nap roller (18mm) to ensure a consistent texture and thickness. The clear coat cures to a glossy finish but will gradually lose its sheen, leaving a consistent and incredibly durable matte finish.

System X – Helpful Tips:

- Sanding the flakes dictates how rough the surface is for slip resistance. Sanding more aggressively gives you a smoother finish and a light sanding leaves the surface rougher. Be careful not to sand too much – you will lose your slip resistance.
- When rolling out the clear coat, ensure that the product is being applied evenly to avoid roller-marks and flashing. We recommend using a “W” pattern to ensure that all sides of every chip are coated evenly. Do not allow the roller to dry out or empty.
- Take your time rolling out the clear coat. Every few feet, take a step or 2 back and look at the surface from as many different angles as possible. This will highlight areas with too much or too little clear coat, allowing you to even it out.
- Avoid broadcasting chips if there is rain in the immediate forecast. The chips will clump together and require more work to remove the excess chips. May also require a second pass with top coat and chips. You need 2 dry days to chip and clear coat.
- The Clear Coat installation is the final step of the process; ensure that you have a plan before spreading and a point of exit so you are not forced to walk over the clear coat. Embedding dirt by walking over sticky clear coat can be tricky to repair. Using protection tape and paper is recommended to protect walls and railings from splatter.
- Allow the clear coat to fully cure (hard and no longer tacky) before walking on the deck or moving furniture back on to the deck. This should only take approximately 24 hours on a warm day.
- If leaves, bugs, pine needles or other debris sticks to the clear coat before it cures, allow it to set-up completely and sand the debris off the surface. Often times you can simply dab some clear coat on those areas.
- In more extreme cases where a visible blemish is present; sand the problem-area, painter-tape around the section you are repairing. Sand the area within; roll out a thin layer of clear coat and spread/tap some chips on to the surface with a flat object (piece of a 2x4 works). When the chips match the rest of the deck surface coarseness and the clear coat beneath has hardened, roll out another thin coat, being careful not to overlap other areas.



Figure 11: Dispersing Chips

System S – Installing the Standard Colour Coat Finish:

The Standard System uses a rugged one part AL (aliphatic) coloured urethane top-coat. Flexstone UV stable top coats are superior, as they will not to fade, crack, or peel like paints and many other urethane top coats.

- Stir the pail of AL (aliphatic) Colour Top-Coat a bit before use. (See instructions on the pail)
- Pour some AL Colour Top-Coat into the roller tray and roll it out with a 10mm roller sleeve evenly over the surface.
- For slip-resistance, broadcast 20-30 grit silica sand over the applied top-coat; roughness depends on the how much sand you use. Silica sand is available at most lumber yards and concrete suppliers.
- Allow the AL Colour coat to cure. The following day (or 6 to 8 hours later) another coat may be needed depending on appearance. Allow the top coat to cure sufficiently so the surface can be walked on prior to the second coat.
- Many applicators apply fine sand to rejection on thin 1st coat then sweep and apply 2nd coat for a consistent texture.

System S – Helpful Tips:

- If the applied base-coat has been exposed for an extended period of time, it can harden and become smooth making it difficult for finish coat(s) to adhere. This depends on time-frame and temperature (generally over 2 weeks).
- Wipe the surface with a small amount of Xylene on a rag to soften the base. This will slightly dissolve and soften the surface, which ensures good adhesion of the top coat on the base.
- In warmer temperatures the top-coat usually cures in one full day. Colour coat accelerators are available to expedite this process in cooler temperatures.
- Save leftover top-coat by pouring into an air-tight plastic Base pail to store for future use & keep in a cool dry place.

Clean-up:

- For cleaning up on the job wipe away any drips or excess product with a rag as soon as possible.
- You can also use a small amount of Xylene on your rag to help remove any product from flashing, concrete, or siding. Cleaning immediately is easiest.
- Clean tools with Xylene at the end of the job. Dispose of brushes and roller sleeves.
- Save the plastic Base pails to use on your next job. Store any leftover colour and clear coats in plastic pails as the lids with o-rings.

Cleaning & Maintenance:

- The simplest method is to simply mix a small amount of general purpose cleaner with hot water. Using a stiff bristle brush or broom, scrub the surface with the cleaning solution. Leave it for 15 minutes, then rinse thoroughly.
- If preferred, using a pressure washer at low-moderate pressure is an efficient way to clean your surface. Hold the nozzle approximately 10" from the deck surface to clean dirt, algae and other debris off your surface.
- Moving Heavy Objects or Furniture: Moving furniture or heavy objects (ie. planters) around your Flexstone deck should not damage the surface; however, if there are jagged or sharp feet on any heavy objects, lift before moving - sharp objects may scratch the surface causing cosmetic issues. Avoid the use of rubber mats – the surface needs to breathe.
- Snow and Ice Removal: Removing snow and ice off a Flexstone deck is simple. You can use a snow-shovel or snow blower to remove snow from the surface. To remove ice, road-salt or de-icer can be broadcasted on the surface. Exercise caution when removing ice from the surface. While Flexstone is inherently slip-resistant, ice formed on the surface can be a hazard. Open flame or high-powered heat guns for melting ice could damage the surface coating.

Questions & Contact Info:

Call us at (604)222-8453 or 1(866)419-8453. Our staff can walk you through any part of this process. Flexstone Coatings have a Manufacturer's Warranty against defects that protects consumers from faulty products. Failures or deficiencies as a result of improper installation, poor weather conditions, or faulty workmanship, are not covered by the warranty.