

# FixCrete®

## Use and maintenance manual

Concrete FixCrete® as a natural material has its characteristic feature. Its colour differs through the surface area and also each crafted piece is different than the previous one. It changes while using, does not remain the same, can contain small pores and micro shrinkage crackings and just these properties are the source of aesthetics of the concrete and they give it its individual character.

## Mechanical resistance

The FixCrete® elements show high firmness and hardness of the surface, though you can't use abrasive materials. The FixCrete® concrete, same as natural stones, such as granite, marble and others, is rough-worked, grinded and polished by diamond, eventually metal tools. Thus it is obvious, that what can be polished by these hard and rough materials, can be also damaged or even destroyed. Thus, we recommend to use appropriate bases or pads (wood, glass, plastic) while slicing on the FixCrete®, to avoid the straight contact with the concrete surface, otherwise it could come to any harm of the surface which could cause the damage of the protection layer. On the contrary, we do not recommend the soft metals such as tin, lead and aluminium to be exposed to any straight contact with the concrete because these metals leave surface marks. Never overload the elements and expose them to impact loads.

## Temperature resistance

The FixCrete® elements with the surface treatment resist the short term temperature up to 240°C (464 °F), however for maintaining the long-termed quality of the surface, it is reasonable to expose the concrete to these temperatures as rarely as possible. Thus we recommend to use e.g. wooden bases while putting hot bodies onto it.

## Chemical resistance

Concrete, same as natural or artificial stones, is porous material which needs to be protected by impregnation layer. The FixCrete® elements are impregnated with a specially designed vapour permeable sealer just for this type of concrete. It is about protection in its structure, not about coating which would create strong film on the surface. Coatings are not appropriate especially for their small mechanical resistance, complete closing of the concrete surface – permeability is disabled and problematical repairing of the surface defects. The FixCrete® with surface treatment shows low liquid absorbance. Only by extreme water exposure (more than 24 hours of regular contact) the surface can turn darker. This shade change is temporary, after the end of the exposure the surface turns back to the primal state. This is caused by the vapour permeability of the surface treatment. While the penetration of the humidity to the concrete, by non-permeable surfaces, causes absolute destruction of the surface treatment.

The FixCrete® concrete further shows very good results by the exposure to aggressive substances which normally occur in any household, such as vinegar, fruit juices, wine, ketchup, mustard and others. Despite this fact we do not recommend exposure for longer time (more than 24 hours) to substances of this character. Certainly do not let the surface to be exposed to dissolvents, diluents, industrial acids and other chemical substances like that.

## Usage

According to the information about resistance of the FixCrete® mentioned before, we recommend to obey the instructions written and thanks to it achieve the long-term life of the product.

while slicing, cutting, chopping and other activities alike, when sharp or hard tools are needed, use appropriate bases or pads (wood, glass, plastic)

while putting out hot objects, especially right from cookers, use appropriate bases or pads (wood)

while manipulating with soft metals such as tin, lead and aluminium make sure not to tear the surface and thus leave surface marks

while spilling of unwanted liquids on the concrete surface, especially acids (vinegar, lemon juice, wine) and other aggressive substances, remove them by wet dishtowel or sponge

In the case of washbasins with the concrete lateral space is highly recommended to use soap dispenser with the spacer legs or wall-mounted version. Thanks to it the water will not stay between concrete and bottom of dispenser.

Longterm exposure to water with combination of soap could destroy protective impregnation layer of the washbasin.

Tables, benches and other products that are placed outside do not cover with any foil, even in the winter. The moisture that goes under the covered space can not evaporate and the surface treatment will be permanently destroyed.

## Cleaning

For cleaning the FixCrete® surfaces use in principle dishtowels, rags or foamy sponges soaked to warm water with addition of regular cleaning detergent e.g. dish detergent. Certainly do not use steel wool, hard sponges, abrasive pastes or other chemical detergents (dissolvents, limescale removers etc.) for cleaning the surface. For the surface polishing use a wet rag, eventually with usage of the alcohol polishers.

## Reparations and refurbishments

Owing to usage, the FixCrete® elements with the surface treatment can get worn on the exposed sides. Scratches, rifts, pigment changes of the surface can occur and this all due to disobeying the references mentioned above. However, some defects can be removed or refurbished and thus it is good to solve the problems straight with the producer. Bigger mechanical damages, such as fragments which were broken off, are also possible to be repaired.