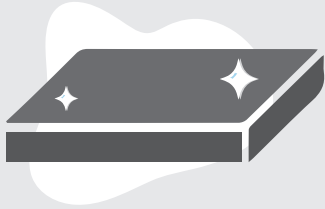


# Penetrating Sealants vs. Standard Guards



Penetrating sealants and standard guards are two common types of protectants used for polished concrete flooring. Each type offers distinct advantages, and the choice between them depends on specific requirements and conditions. Here are the differences of using penetrating sealers versus standard guards for polished concrete flooring:

## Penetrating Sealers

## Standard Guards

### Natural Appearance:

These sealers are designed to penetrate the surface of the polished concrete, leaving the surface looking more natural. They don't alter the appearance or texture of the polished concrete, allowing it to retain its original look.



These guards create a protective layer (Sacrificial layer) on the surface of the polished concrete, often altering its appearance. While some guards offer a glossy finish, others may add a layer that changes the color or texture of the polished concrete.

### Breathability:

They allow moisture vapor to escape from the polished concrete, preventing efflorescence, which is the deposit of soluble salts on the surface.



Some guards may form a non-breathable barrier, trapping moisture within the polished concrete. This can lead to problems such as blistering or peeling.

### Durability and Longevity:

They often provide long-lasting protection because they penetrate deep into the polished concrete, forming a durable barrier against water, oil and other polished contaminants. They have the longest durability and can last long as 10 years<sup>1</sup> or more with proper maintenance.



While standard guards offer some protection, their durability may be affected by factors like abrasion, UV exposure, and foot traffic. They may require more frequent reapplication since they sit on top of the polished concrete.

### Resistance to Stains and Chemicals:

These sealers offer excellent resistance to water, oil, and other contaminants that can cause stains, helping prevent absorption up to 85%.<sup>2</sup>



They also resist stains and chemicals, but the protection is primarily on the surface. The guards only slightly fill in micro pores and fissures in the surface.<sup>3</sup> The polished concrete may become vulnerable to staining if the surface is damaged or the sealer wears off.

### Ease of Application:

They are easy to apply and normally have very high coverage rates, making the application technique simple, oftentimes "thin-to-win" is the best mantra! It's as simple as a spray & microfiber mop application.



Application may require more attention to detail, and factors like temperature and humidity can affect curing. Some standard guards may also require multiple coats. There are several different application methods spray & microfiber mop are the most common.

<sup>1</sup> <https://fmpconstruction.com/commercial-concrete-sealing/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://wisconsin.gov/documents2/research/0092-18-01-final-report.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.concretedecor.net/departments/concrete-coatings/coat-or-no-coat/>

