

Rib Rock™ Landscape Block Texture and Staining Guide

Manufactured in the USA By



Rib Rock™ Landscape Block are manufactured with one of two faces, Rough or Dry Stack.



Rib Rock Rough Texture



Rib Rock Dry Stack Texture

Please check out our website under Products, Landscaping, Retaining Walls, Rib Rock Landscape Block to find photos of each of the textures featured in various project applications.

Staining & Sealing

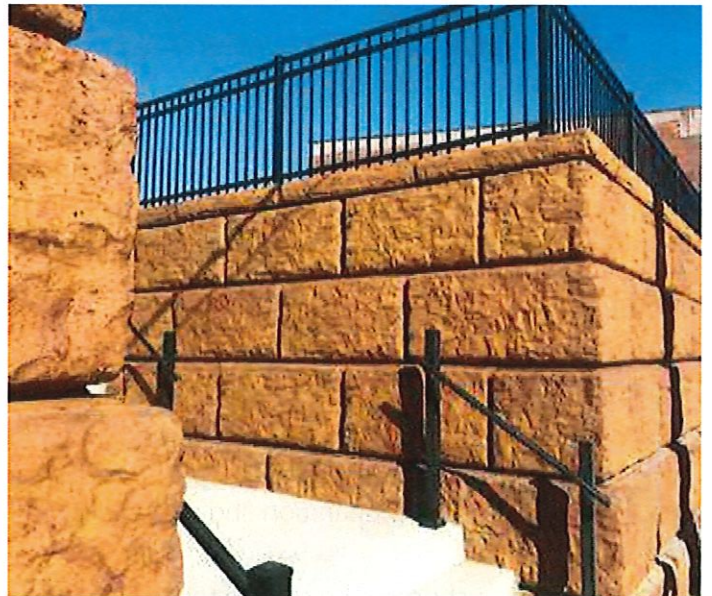
County Materials Corporation produces Rib Rock Landscape Block in a natural concrete gray color. Custom staining may be done onsite by the installer.

Staining the wall is an aesthetic enhancement and does not enhance the durability of the product.

Rib Block is manufactured from wet cast air entrained concrete with a minimum 4000 psi. It is a durable product that is resistant to the adverse effects of freeze thaw cycles, road salts, and brackish water. Sealers can, however, be added as an additional element of protection against road salts and freeze thaw cycles.

Staining

There is a range of staining products that can be used to stain a concrete surface. These range from water born concrete stains, acid etch stains, and hybrids products that combine features of both. Water born stains are easy to apply and environmentally friendly. They come in a very wide range of colors (from light tans to deep brown, gray, charcoal and even black). Variation in the color of the wall can be achieved by applying multiple highlights after the base coat has been applied. Acid etch stains require an additional degree of care and skill to properly apply. Acid etch stains create deep colors (usually dark browns and rusts) and a natural variation in the color which adds to the authenticity of the finished wall appearance.



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County Materials' specification covers only the water born products. For additional information on acid etch stains and hybrid stains, please contact us.

1. Before staining, the wall should be power washed and allowed to dry. This removes any dirt and / or form oil from the face of the block. This is very important.
2. Recommended stains include Sherwin Williams H & C Concrete Stain Solid Color Water-Based or TK Products Stain #5272. Both are latex / water based and can be applied with either an electric airless sprayer or a compressed air sprayer. Sherwin Williams is available at retail outlets across the country. For a distributor of the TK Products near you, contact TK Products at 11400 West 47th Street, Minnetonka, MN 55343, 1-800-441-2129.
3. Color selection is an important consideration. It is recommended that the customer provide to the staining contractor a sample of the natural stone / color that they want to replicate. That natural stone sample can then be taken to the stain distributor and used to mix the base coat and the highlights. Some staining contractors may have samples that they can provide to you to choose from.
4. The wall can be stained a one coat one color stain, or it can be stained with a base color and then highlighted with several different shades to more closely approximate a weathered natural stone look. Generally, the "highlights" are applied to several blocks in a random fashion, and then before the highlights dry, they are wiped out with a wet sponge. This helps to blend the highlights into the block, creating a natural appearance.
5. For specification purposes, the number of highlights desired should be disclosed, as each highlight will add slightly to the cost of the staining process. For example, the specification may indicate "a base coat and two highlights".
6. Application of the stain should follow the stain manufacturer's recommendations. Generally, there will be a requirement to prepare the concrete (power wash and dry), a recommendation of at least 28-day strength to the concrete, and a minimum / maximum temperature range at time of staining.

Sealing

1. Some customers ask that their wall be sealed. This may be particularly relevant if the wall is in a road splash zone where winter road salts might get on the face of the wall.
2. If you are using the TK Products stain, then TK Products also sells a number of sealers that are compatible with their stains, including TK-TRI-Siloxane 290-12. This is a solvent-based Siloxane sealer. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for preparation and application. The blocks must be completely and thoroughly dry before sealing.

This is more than just dry to the surface touch. The water and the mineral based sealer do not mix. Thus, after the power wash, you will need dry warm weather and the passage of time before the sealer can be applied. Yes, the sealer is applied before the stain is applied. This sealer actually penetrates into the concrete.