



COATING OR COLORING A VERTICAL SURFACE

Find out how SUNDEK contractors beautify vertical surfaces using a variety of solutions.

If you're working on a project with vertical concrete surfaces—such as a warehouse, retaining wall, or any other type of wall—and want to make those surfaces beautiful, consider staining or decorative concrete coatings.

With stains and coatings, you can get a wide variety of colors, textures, and looks for your vertical surface. With the line of products SUNDEK offers, you can even mimic the look of a range of materials such as brick, limestone, wood, and more.

Here, Kevin Thiemer, sales representative for SUNDEK of Austin, offers his knowledge on the topic based on years of experience in beautifying all types of concrete surfaces, including vertical structures.

WHAT VERTICAL SURFACES CAN BE COATED OR STAINED?

If it's concrete, a reputable, experienced contractor can apply a coating or stain—it doesn't matter if the concrete is on the ground or vertical. Here are a few types of vertical structures that SUNDEK has applied stain or coatings to:

- Bridges
- Buildings (residential and commercial)
- Planters
- Retaining walls
- Tilt-up construction
- Walls
- Wainscoting
- Warehouses

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STAINING OR COATING EXISTING VERTICAL CONCRETE SURFACES

If you're working on a project that's not a new build, keep in mind that stains and coatings can be applied to existing concrete surfaces, too. As long as the surface is structurally sound and not seriously damaged, it can still receive a coating and/or stain—your contractor may just need to apply a microtopping first. The best way to find out if this is possible for your project is to have a reputable contractor who has done this type of work, such as SUNDEK, come out to your site to assess the condition of the existing surface.

WORKING WITH VERTICAL SUR- FACES THAT ARE NOT CONCRETE

If you're working with a vertical surface that's not concrete, it doesn't mean coatings or stain aren't right for the project. In fact, at SUNDEK, we have worked with stucco, drywall, brick, and more. However, you will need to have a contractor who does this type of work come out to assess the existing surface to see if it's able to receive the product.

Using SunStain, ATD Concrete Coatings colored this commercial building in Dallas, TX



CHOOSING A PRODUCT

The appropriate product or combination of products you use on your vertical surface depends on the aesthetic you're going for and the type of exposure the surface will get. The best way to determine the right product is to speak with a contractor such as SUNDEK, but here are some of the things you'll need to think through before you have a conversation:

Durability required: Just because you won't have foot traffic on your vertical surface doesn't mean it shouldn't be durable. Assess the location of your surface to determine whether it will be exposed to elements such as UV rays, water (whether from rain or a sprinkler), or anything hitting or touching its surface repeatedly. For example, if it's a wall on a playground, will balls be bouncing against it? If it's a wall around an indoor pool area, will it be exposed to

chlorinated water? Thinking through these types of scenarios will help you and your contractor decide the appropriate product and sealer.

Pattern, Texture & Color: With decorative concrete coatings and staining, you can get just about any type of pattern, texture, and/or color you want. You may want something simple, but if you're considering something more elaborate, keep in mind that with the right combination of techniques and products, you can mimic the look of a variety of materials including wood, brick, limestone, and more. At SUNDEK, we enjoy helping our clients get just the right look for their projects.

Big Red Decorative Concrete installed this wall using SUNDEK's Tuscan product, a handcrafted overlay, in Kansas City, MO.



WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN HAVING A VERTICAL SURFACE COLORED OR COATED

If you are having walls or other vertical surfaces on your project colored or coated, here's what you can expect during the process:

- **Surface preparation:** In the same way that a ground surface needs to be prepared before a coating or stain is applied, a vertical surface also needs to be prepared. Whether it's an existing surface or the surface is brand new, it needs to be grinded or shot-blasted. Product will adhere better to a surface that's clean and porous.
- **Nearby protection:** When working with product that might be sprayed or even brushed on, it's critical that your contractor protect nearby surfaces by covering them with plastic or cloth.
- **Application of overlay or stain:** Depending on the desired look, your contractor will apply product as necessary. This may require several iterations (for example, your contractor may need to layer colors to get the desired effect).

- **Finishing:** After the stain or coating dries and/or cures, it's critical for your contractor to seal the vertical surface to protect it from staining and other damage.

Just like ground surfaces can't be installed during rain or other inclement weather that might disturb the curing or setting process, the same applies to vertical surfaces. Ultimately, the goal is to have an outstanding finished product, so sometimes delays may occur due to bad weather.

FIND A LOCAL SUNDEK INSTALLATION CONTRACTOR

SUNDEK has project managers and over 60 installation contractors nationwide to serve you.

CONTACT US

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Big Red Construction mimicked the look of wood for this dividing wall at a project in Kansas City, MO.

