HERCULINER APPLICATION TIPS
SURFACE PREPARATION IMPORTANT READ CAREFULLY!

HERCULINER will bond to all prepared, clean, thoroughly dry surfaces. On sound-painted surfaces, paint must be fully dried or cured to manufacturer's specifications. The solvents in HERCULINER will not soften or attack properly dried or cured paint.

GENERAL DIRECTIONS
Always clean the surface of all oily or waxy contaminants by using recommended cleaning solvent—leave no residue.

DO’S AND DON'TS

DO

• Thin HERCULINER with Xylene (Xylol) only.
• Use Xylene (Xylol) if available, otherwise use Acetone or MEK cleaning solvent only for surface preparation.
• Allow solvent to dry completely before applying HERCULINER.
• Clean surface with strong aggressive detergent.
• Ensure surface is completely dry and/or cured if recently painted, before applying HERCULINER.
• Test surfaces with HERCULINER beforehand.
• Apply 2nd coat within 24 hours of 1st coat application.
• Wear chemical resistant gloves.

DON'T

• Mix any solvent with HERCULINER except for Xylene (Xylol).
• Clean surfaces with lacquer thinners or any solvent containing alcohol, which will prevent HERCULINER from curing.
• Assume surface is clean unless you have cleaned it yourself.
• Apply HERCULINER if temperature is below 32°F or above 95°F.
• Use a laquer-based primer.

SURFACE PREPARATION FOR SPECIFIC ADHESION

IMPORTANT!
The following information is provided only as a guide, since surfaces can differ significantly. Testing surfaces to ensure proper adhesion is recommended.

CONCRETE
For best results, new concrete should:
• Be fully cured for at least 28 days.
• Have a brush finish.
• Be hand troweled (power troweling may overwork the concrete).
• Be thoroughly cleaned with a citric cleaner or equivalent.
• Be wiped with Xylene (Xylol), Acetone or MEK cleaning solvent.
• Allow solvent to dry completely before applying HERCULINER.

For best results, old concrete should:
• Be thoroughly cleaned with a muriatic acid wash.
  1. Use 45% to 50% muriatic acid solution.
  2. Agitate solution on surface with a hard-bristled deck brush.
  3. Rinse off with 5% ammonia/water solution.
  4. Dry completely.
  5. Brush off residue.
• Be wiped with Xylene (Xylol), Acetone or MEK cleaning solvent.
• Allow solvent to dry completely before applying HERCULINER.

Sealed concrete should be tested for HERCULINER adhesion:
  1. Clean surface thoroughly.
  2. Roughen surface.
  3. Wipe with Xylene (Xylol), Acetone or MEK cleaning solvent.
  4. Allow solvent to dry completely before applying HERCULINER.
  5. Apply HERCULINER.
  6. If delamination occurs, sealer must be removed by mechanical means (i.e., shot blasting).

For surface preparation of oil or chemically soaked concrete or other unusually difficult surfaces, contact HERCULINER toll-free at 800-477-5847.

CONCRETE PLUS PRIMER

HERCULINER exhibits good adhesion to new acrylic and polyurethane primers applied and overcoated to manufacturers recommendations. Be sure to apply HERCULINER within time specifications of primer manufacturer.

ASPHALT

1. Prime surface with a mineral spirit or water-based driveway sealer according to manufacturer’s specifications.
2. HERCULINER can then be applied.

ALUMINUM

Roughen surface and use primer compatible with aluminum and one part polyurethane. If needed, use a primer specifically made for aluminum. If in doubt make a small test application first. Contact HERCULINER for technical assistance toll-free at 800-477-5847.

METAL

All smooth metal should be cleaned and aggressively roughened. HERCULINER adheres well to sound-painted metal. Most rough metal surfaces need not be primed; however, on applications of extreme wear, such as step nosings, a primer is recommended.

RUST

All rust should be removed down to the bare metal before applying HERCULINER.

WOOD

If wood texture is rough, it may not require special preparation. For best results, lightly sand wood surface before applying HERCULINER. Some pressure-treated woods may need priming. If in doubt, make a small test application first. HERCULINER will bond to wolenized treated wood without priming.

PAINT AND VARNISH

1. Remove all peeling, cracking or chipping paint.
2. Clean surface thoroughly.
3. For best results, lightly sand surface.
4. Wipe with Xylene (Xylol), Acetone or MEK cleaning solvent.
5. Allow solvent to dry completely before applying HERCULINER.

RUBBER

Clean well using detergent or cleaning solvent, removing all oil, grease, wax and dirt. Rinse well and allow to dry. Roughen surface aggressively and then clean with Xylene (Xylol), Acetone or MEK cleaning solution. Allow solvent to dry completely before applying HERCULINER. HERCULINER coating will not bond to chlorinated rubber.

FIBERGLASS

Good adhesion can be obtained on unweathered gel-coated glass, rough fiber, side molded glass, and smooth-mold resin-side glass. Surface should be free of oils, waxes and other production additivies, then sanded to remove all gloss, leaving a rough surface.

HOW TO APPLY

HERCULINER may be applied with a brush, roller, or spray gun. A roller will provide the roughest final texture; a spray gun the least.

Before applying HERCULINER, it is important that the surface to be coated is completely clean. (See surface preparation).

Mask all areas not to be coated. Remove masking tape immediately after application of second coat.

IMPORTANT!
HERCULINER contains flammable solvents. Ensure proper ventilation and fire precautions.

ROLLER APPLICATION

Apply HERCULINER with the special open foam stipple roller included in the kit. Extra roller covers are available at your local home supply outlet (i.e., foamPro textured paint roller #58).

Applying first coat as a thin coat to cover. When surface is touch dry or no longer tacky (usually within 1-4 hours - slightly longer for red and gray HERCULINER), apply second coat. Extreme climate conditions of heat, cold and humidity can shorten or lengthen this period. NOTE: Failure to apply two complete uniform coats will compromise the durability and reduce the longevity of the HERCULINER truck bed coating. Roll gently to extend the life of the roller cover.

To avoid “mud cracking,” do not apply HERCULINER too thickly. Pour only Xylene (Xylol) thinner/cleaner over rollers between coats so rollers will not dry out.

BRUSH APPLICATION

HERCULINER can be applied with a soft paint brush in two coats at right angles to one another. (HERCULINER is not a paint, and should be laid onto the surface, in one direction, not brushed out as an oil or latex paint.) Between coats, clean brush only with recommended thinner/cleaner Xylene (Xylol). The second coat can be applied as soon as the first coat is touch dry (usually within 1-4 hours - slightly longer for red and gray HERCULINER.) Extreme climate conditions of heat, cold and humidity can shorten or lengthen this period.

COVERAGE (2 COATS)

One quart covers a flat area of about 15 square feet. One gallon covers 55 to 60 square feet, with a final dry coat thickness of 1/8 to 1/4 of an inch.
IMPORTANT ADVICE!

- HERCULINER should be stirred thoroughly before applying (preferably with an electric paint mixer).
- Stir periodically to maintain rubber granules in suspension.
- To avoid “mud cracking,” do not allow HERCULINER to pool.
- HERCULINER is a moisture-cured product. An open or partially used can will thicken and eventually become useless.
- If the product thickens slightly, it can be thinned by using up to 10% of the recommended thinner/cleaner Xylene (Xylol) without affecting performance. Use only Xylene (Xylol) to dilute HERCULINER, clean rollers, brushes, spray guns and hoses.

IMPORTANT: Other solvents can cause product failure. Do not dilute HERCULINER or clean brushes or spray guns with alcohol or lacquer thinners.

- Once the consistency of the product has become pasty, it should be discarded.
- Normally, HERCULINER can be subjected to light foot traffic within 12 hours and should not be subjected to cleaning or chemical exposure until fully cured, in 2-4 days (approximately 96 hours - slightly longer for red and gray HERCULINER).
- HERCULINER takes about four days to fully cure: less time in hot humid conditions, and more time in cold dry weather.

PLEASE NOTE that full curing time only affects the amount of time required to wait before subjecting the surface to cleaning and chemical exposure. Surface can be subjected to loading well before this minimum time requirement (see above).

SPRAY APPLICATION

- When using a spray compressor, the operator should always wear a respirator with chemical absorbing cartridges.
- Make sure to thoroughly mix HERCULINER. A drill with a mixing adapter works best. If needed, HERCULINER can be thinned up to 15% with Xylene (Xylol) only.
- Attach spray gun to compressor line, giving pressure of 40 to 50PSI. Minimum requirements of air compressor: 11-16 CFM @ 50PSI.
- To initially adjust the air/HERCULINER mix, always start with the air pressure. Then slowly raise the fluid pressure gradually lowering the air pressure until the desired flow rate and spray is reached. NEVER open the fluid valve first. This will cause the fluid to back up in the gun due to the lack of air atomization pressure. Air and fluid pressures should be equal. Always favor the air pressure side. However, if the air pressure is too high, fluid flow will reduce to zero.
- Before starting the job, spray a few short bursts away from the surface to test that everything is working properly.
- Spray an even coat over the entire surface to be covered. Be careful not to apply coat too thickly.
- When surface becomes tacky—between 20 minutes and one hour, depending on weather conditions—spray second coat. Extreme climate conditions of heat, cold and humidity can shorten or lengthen this period.
- Clean spray gun and wipe off hoses between coats and immediately after job is completed. Use Xylene (Xylol) only.
- Any further questions with regard to spraying, please call toll free 1-800-477-5847.

IMPORTANT ADVICE!

- Solvents released when spraying are flammable. Observe all fire precautions. Proper ventilation is required.

REPAIRING HERCULINER

HERCULINER can easily be repaired or over-coated, because it bonds to itself.

- Cut out all damaged HERCULINER to eliminate uneven edges.
- Clean area to be repaired and rough up surrounding HERCULINER with 60-grit sandpaper so that the new application can get a good grip.
- Clean area with Xylene (Xylol) only.
- Brush or spray fresh HERCULINER onto cleaned areas, as per application instructions.

PAINTING HERCULINER

- A polyurethane based paint will generally adhere to HERCULINER if it is clean, dry and properly roughened.
- Tinting of HERCULINER is not recommended.

THE CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF HERCULINER SURFACES

Once HERCULINER has fully cured, it is very easy to maintain. Because HERCULINER cures to an impermeable membrane, all dirt sits on the surface.

1. Use any general floor cleaner, from a neutral commercial cleaner to a household cleaner, or its equivalent.
2. IMPORTANT! For best results, use a stiff bristled deck brush to agitate cleaner on the surface. (A cotton mop is not recommended since pieces of mop may get caught on high profile HERCULINER surface. A synthetic fiber material mop, may be used if a deck brush is unavailable.)
3. Rinse surface thoroughly to remove all residue.
4. Remove all water with sponge mop, 24oz. mop or water vacuum.
5. Avoid contact with brake fluid and alcohol.

To restore a gloss finish after cleaning HERCULINER, apply HERCULINER UV Topcoat Protectant or a rubber/vinyl restoration product.

ALTERNATIVE METHODS

For larger areas, where the above is not time efficient, there are alternatives available to expedite cleaning.

ROTARY MACHINE

A rotary 14” waxing-type machine with a (thickline) blue pad can be used in place of a deck brush to greatly increase the square footage that can be cleaned in a relatively short period of time.

RINSE-FREE DETERGENT

If a rinse-free detergent is used, the dirty water pick up can be done with a water vacuum and the job will be complete at that point.

AUTOMATIC SCRUBBERS

HERCULINER surfaces can also be cleaned with use of automatic scrubbers. These are machines which in one pass, put down the washing solution, scrub the surface with a (blue) pad, and vacuum up the dirty water. It should be pointed out that the pad pressure used in the scrubber (using a blue pad) need only be sufficient for the pad to make light contact with the surface. Heavy scrubbing will negatively affect the HERCULINER surface.

SPECIFIC CLEANING PROBLEMS

GREASE SPILLAGE

To clean a HERCULINER surface of a greasy or slippery solution, it is necessary to use a slightly more aggressive detergent, containing a degreaser. There are many such products available from your chemical suppliers.