

# MasterFinish<sup>®</sup> UC

## One-coat form retarder for exposed-aggregate

### Description

MasterFinish UC is a one-coat chemical retarder specifically designed to economically produce uniform exposed-aggregate finishes on architectural precast concrete applications. The abrasion resistance and sustaining properties make it ideal to produce exposed-aggregate concrete under a wide variety of job site conditions.

### Applications

Recommended for use in:

- Architectural precast/prestressed concrete
- Cast stone
- Cast-in-place concrete

### Location

- Vertical and horizontal

### Substrate

- Steel forms
- Fiberglass forms
- Concrete forms
- Wood forms
- Styrofoam forms

### Features

- Applied in one coat; no MasterFinish QD 200 transfer agent required
- Highly abrasion resistant
- Good heat resistance
- Controlled penetration delays the set of surface only
- Wide range of etches available, including light etch
- Color-coded
- Can accommodate high-pressure water washing

### Benefits

- Economical and labor saving
- Suitable for a variety of applications and environments
- Consistent water-washed, exposed aggregate surfaces
- Variety of exposed aggregate appearances
- Easy identification
- Ease and speed of production
- Time and labor savings, when used as an alternative to sand blasting

### Color

The material in every container of MasterFinish UC retarder is color-coded to show specific degrees of penetration. Each container bears the name of the color on the label. The lid is also colored to match the material inside.

### Color Coding Information

| Color (Code)      | Depth of Etch | Aggregate Size* in. (mm) |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Lilac (38)</b> | Light         | 1/4 – 3/8 (6 – 10)       |
| <b>Pink (48)</b>  | Medium Light  | 3/8 – 1/2 (10 – 13)      |

\* The depth of the etch approximately corresponds to the recommended size of the aggregate.

## Guidelines for Use

**Yield:** 250 - 300 ft<sup>2</sup>/gal (6.1 - 7.5 m<sup>2</sup>/L).

### Surface Preparation:

#### PLANT USE

Forms must be clean, dry and non-porous. Seal porous forms of wood or concrete with MasterFinish PT 100 protective coating, specially formulated to use under a retarder.

#### CAST-IN-PLACE

MasterFinish UC retarder should be applied to forms that are non-porous. Use MasterFinish PT 100 protective coating to seal wood.

**Mixing:** Mixing this product increases the generation of flammable vapors. Mix product in an adequately ventilated area to ensure safe handling during this process.

Stir the retarder well before using. Use a mechanical drill and Jiffy-type mixer (being sure to scrape the sides and bottom of the container) or pour back and forth between two containers to ensure that any settled materials will be thoroughly dispersed.

### Application:

#### PLANT USE

1. A form release agent should be applied to all surfaces that do not receive a retarder.
2. Apply MasterFinish UC retarder in a thin uniform coat by spray, brush or roller at a rate of 250 – 300 ft<sup>2</sup>/gal (6.1 - 7.5 m<sup>2</sup>/L) (5 mils (0.13 mm) on wet film thickness gauge). This coverage should be achieved by applying one light coat with a short (3/8 in. (10 mm)) nap roller. Allow to dry for 10-20 minutes or until dry to touch.
3. Over-application will make form clean up more difficult, but will not affect the depth of etch. If the placing of the concrete is delayed for an unusual length of time, protect the retarder surface from moisture.
4. When the element is lifted or the forms are removed, the retarded surface concrete is easily removed by sandblasting, high pressure waterwashing or dry-brushing. The retarder film will remain on the mold. The film should be easily removed by scraping or drybrushing it with a broom, hand brush or dry rag after waiting for about 30 minutes.

#### CAST-IN-PLACE

1. Place concrete in accordance with good construction practices.
2. On vertical concrete over 5 feet (1.5 m), use an elephant trunk or jacket to reduce abrasion on the retarder film.
3. Concrete should be placed in lifts of approximately 2 to 3 feet (60 to 90 cm). Vibration should follow closely behind and penetrate into the previous lift. Keep vibrator away from retarded sides. Slow concrete placement will exaggerate lift lines.
4. Placement should be smooth and quick with minimal delay. Once the section is vibrated, it should not be disturbed. Contact your local sales representative for more specific details.

**Clean Up:** Clean tools and equipment with a commercial solvent. Clean hands and skin with soap or industrial hand cleaner, not solvents.

## For Best Performance

- The mold should be thoroughly cleaned of the retarder prior to reapplication for the next pour. Residual dust may cause contamination to other formwork.
- Surfaces coated with MasterFinish UC retarder must be protected from water (rain, condensation, etc.)
- Recommended maximum concrete temperature will be determined during the production of mock-up test panels. These test panels should simulate actual concrete temperatures to determine depth of etch requirements during final production.
- To use MasterFinish UC retarder on a vertical application, tilt-up project, styrofoam form or polyurethane formliners, please contact your local sales representative.
- Make certain the most current versions of product data sheet and safety data sheet are being used; call your local sales representative to verify the most current versions.

## Mock Up

- Skill and practice are necessary to produce any high quality architectural finish. Samples and test mock-ups duplicating actual production conditions are essential to obtain a representative finish for approval prior to commencing production.
- Some important variables that should be controlled as close to actual cast conditions include: retarder coverage rate and method of application, mixture proportions and slump, admixtures, temperature of plastic and cured concrete, vibration, thickness of the element, length of time in form and method of cleaning.
- This is especially important with light etches which are particularly affected by changing conditions.
- Changes in mixture proportions (cement, sand, aggregate, water), admixture content, temperature and any other factor influencing compressive strength development should be kept to a minimum. If white cement (Type III) is used in the face mix, consult your local sales representative.

## Storage and Handling

**Storage Temperature:** Store in unopened container in a cool, clean, dry area between 40 and 80 °F (4 and 27 °C). Keep containers tightly sealed after opening to maintain shelf life freshness. Protect from freezing.

**Shelf Life:** 2 years when properly stored.

In case of spillage, clean and dispose of in accordance with local, state and federal applicable regulations.

## Packaging

5 gal (18.9 L) steel pails

## VOC Content

497 g/L or 4.14 lb/gal, less water and exempt solvents.

## Related Documents

Safety Data Sheets: MasterFinish UC retarder

## Additional Information

For suggested specification information or for additional product data on MasterFinish UC retarder, contact your local sales representative.

*Master Builders Solutions creates technologies for the construction industry inspiring people to build better. We are active in ~40 countries and operate 35 production sites with over 1,600 employees. We develop, produce, and market high-quality chemical admixtures, as well as adjacent core technologies, to master the challenges of today and support a decarbonized future. Our people are pivotal and pair leading technologies and a strong brand heritage to surpass our customers' expectations and drive continuous value creation.*

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