

User's Guide

Creative Application Methods for SoftSand® Rubber Particles

Product Description

SoftSand® rubber particles were developed as a foot-friendly, decorative alternative to sand and other abrasive materials typically used in non-skid coatings. SoftSand particles combine the wonderful feeling of rubber, with an attractive range of colors and particle sizes. These unique particles can be used in new, creative ways to create textured coatings for non-skid and other applications. SoftSand particles are compatible with most urethane, epoxy, and acrylic coatings.

Creative Options

In addition to providing functional, skid resistant coatings¹, SoftSand rubber particles can be used to create beautifully textured, decorative coatings. These coatings can be applied to virtually any service, including walls, floors, doors, etc. Below are some ideas for creating unique coatings with SoftSand rubber.

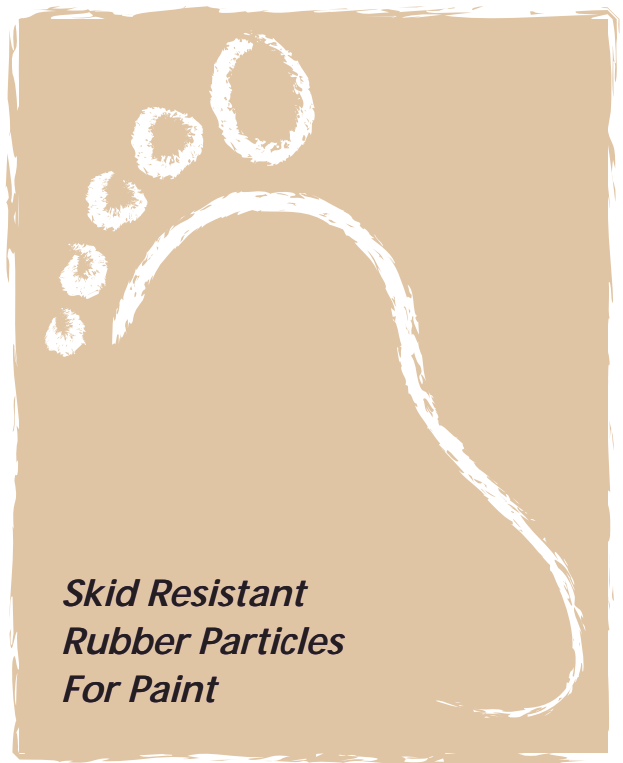
¹ See User's Guide: "Conventional Application Methods for SoftSand Rubber Particles."

Understanding the Coating System

There are three components that comprise a coating system. These three components can be used in different combinations to create one of a kind coating. These components are the base coat, SoftSand particles, and the top coat.

1. The base coat is the foundation for the coating system. It can be an acrylic wall or floor paint, epoxy resin system, or urethane coating. The base coat is applied to the surface, and will anchor the SoftSand particles. The base coat can be colored, tinted or clear, and serves as the backdrop to the particles.
2. SoftSand particles are the second component in this system. The different colors can be blended together to create unique combinations, or used as stand alone colors. Popular blends include

soft sand®



three to five parts of white, to one part of another color such as red, gray or green. The particles are sprinkled or broadcast onto the base coat while it is still wet. The particles can be sprinkled by hand, or sifted through a kitchen strainer, or empty spice container. Once the base coat has dried or cured, remove excess SoftSand particles by brushing or vacuuming.

3. The topcoat is the third component to the system. It is applied over the particles, after the base coat has dried or cured. The topcoat can also be colored or clear. A clear coating, such as a urethane or epoxy, will allow the color of the particles to remain visible. Use of a flexible coating will complement the softness of the rubber particles.

Examples of Colored Systems

The pictures to the right illustrate the decorative possibilities with SoftSand rubber. These samples were prepared using the three components above.

1. The base coat was a white, acrylic paint.
2. SoftSand particles were blended in a ratio of four parts white to one part color, and applied using a spice shaker. The coating was allowed to dry, and then excess particles were removed.
3. A clear, flexible urethane was applied as the topcoat.

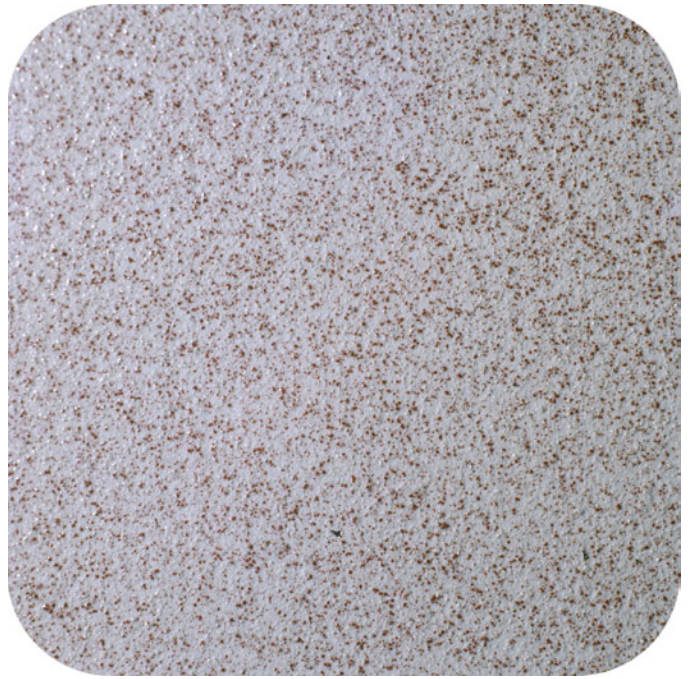


Figure 1. This photo illustrates the appearance of 20% SoftSand Brick Red particles in a white acrylic paint.



Figure 2. This photo illustrates the appearance of 20% SoftSand Seafoam Green particles in a white acrylic paint.