



CH Distillery Installation

The Challenge

Owners Mark Lucas and Tremaine Atkinson decided to start up CH Distillery, the first distillery-bar in Chicago, after going on several distillery tours and being served tastings of warm spirits in plastic cups. They envisioned a place where their customers could tour the facility and try the spirits in a cocktail bar with a great atmosphere and delicious food.

In the 3000 sq/ft distillery portion of the new facility, they required a floor coating that was tough enough to withstand the rigors of a distillery production area which would contain separate fermenting tanks for each of its spirits as well as gin and vodka stills. There was going to be thermal shock, chemical attack, heavy traffic, and the floor had to be easy to clean and sanitize since it's a beverage production facility. Aesthetics was also extremely important since the distillery area is visible from the bar and they would be giving regular tours.

The design builder on the project, Crescent Rock Builders, brought in Chris Collopy of Broadleaf, Inc to provide system recommendation. Broadleaf is a Thermal-Chem certified installer and had an excellent track record with the builder.

The Solution

Broadleaf, Inc recommended Thermal-Chem's workhorse epoxy system 745 DecoClear and a topcoat of 1061 ArmorFinish E81 for enhanced chemical, stain and scuff resistance applied as a 60mil broadcast in a



Concrete Work Prior to Coating



Applying Integral Cove

custom blue color. Chris also recommended an integral 4" cove base to provide a seamless transition from the floor to the wall.

The existing concrete was shot blasted to achieve a clean sound substrate for the epoxy to bond. First applied was Thermal-Chem's 726 ArmorPrime to promote adhesion and help reduce the chance of outgassing. Next, the 745 DecoClear was applied at about 100-120 sq/ft per gallon and A108 Broadcast Silica was broadcast until refusal. The surface was swept and loose sand was removed prior to a grout coat of 745 DecoClear applied at about 60 sq/ft per gallon. Lastly, the 1061 urethane topcoat was applied at 300 sq/ft per gallon. The complete installation took four days from prep to the final coat.



745 DecoClear Application

The Result

The final result was a beautiful floor that not only was tough and durable but easy to maintain as well. According to owner Tremaine Atkinson, "It's been over a year of production and tours and the floor looks as good now as the day we opened. It's a great looking floor that is easy to clean and can handle everything we throw at it."

