



# CURECRETE DISTRIBUTION, INC.

## Technical Services

Bulletin No. 18, Revision 2

10-24-2000

## **THE ASHFORD FORMULA AND U.S.D.A. COMPLIANCE**

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Many customers ask whether or not The Ashford Formula is safe to use in food environments, and if it carries USDA approval.

For years, Curecrete Chemical Company, Inc. never sought USDA approval because the government's own guidelines apply only to coatings and membranes that can be exposed to food. Ashford is neither a coating nor a membrane, and it certainly is not exposed to food. In fact, the final step in our application process is to remove any excess Ashford from the floor surface.

After the removal of the residue, only The Ashford Formula *inside* the surface of the floor remains, where it reacts with the ingredients of the portland cement to densify the concrete. After the chemical reaction takes place, The Ashford Formula changes, and so does the concrete, as they produce a new floor surface that is no more than a densified version of the concrete that was there in the first place. If you were to analyze the floor surface, you would not find any traces of The Ashford Formula. Instead, you would find the chemical composition of concrete, except it is hardened, dust proofed, and eventually sealed. There will not be any presence of The Ashford Formula to be exposed to food.

The Ashford Formula has been used very successfully in food facilities for years. This includes both processing and distribution buildings. It is non-toxic, produces no harmful vapors, and is non-flammable. It creates a dense floor surface that is easy to clean and will therefore not harbor bacteria (provided the floor is cleaned regularly). With The Ashford Formula, there is also nothing on the surface to flake or peel off.

All of that said, customers still insist on some kind of declaration from the USDA that The Ashford Formula is suitable for food environments. Unfortunately, the USDA approval process applies only to paints and coatings and The Ashford Formula is neither. Since many customers have insisted so vocally and so persistently for a letter from the USDA, Curecrete Chemical Company, Inc. finally made the decision to obtain USDA approval, even though our product is not a paint or a coating.

However, by that time the USDA approval process for paints and coatings had changed. Previously, a manufacturer would submit a sample and wait several months before the USDA would issue a letter of approval. This is no longer done. Now, the manufacturer writes a letter which must contain language, dictated by the USDA, that the product is safe for use in food environments. The letter must state that the product

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will not adulterate food products, will perform well under conditions of rigorous cleaning, temperature change, and wet conditions, contains no carcinogens, mutagens, or teratogens, heavy metals, or toxic ingredients, and is not a pesticide. Curecrete Chemical Company, Inc. has now produced such a letter, a copy of which may be given to prospects. Under the new guidelines, this letter is equivalent to a USDA certificate of compliance unless the product's claims were verified and found to be unsafe.