

Concrete Block: Cleaning Recommendations

Since the final appearance of a masonry wall determines the acceptance of a job, it is important to follow recommended cleaning instructions. Integrally colored block requires special attention to instructions.

Masonry Product

CONCRETE BLOCK as manufactured by Mutual Materials Co., P.O. Box 2009, Bellevue, WA 98009.

Cleaning Materials

1. NMD80, New Masonry Detergent by EaCo Chem Inc.

During Construction

1. Minimize cleaning problems by exercising care during masonry installation. Tidy workmanship during construction will reduce the subsequent clean-up effort.
2. Care must be taken to keep concrete block dry prior to installation. This will minimize the likelihood of efflorescence.
3. Keep the wall as clean as possible during construction so that mortar lumps do not harden on the wall.
4. Turn over scaffold planks at night so that rain will not splash mortar from dirty planks onto the wall.
5. Keep block walls covered when not being worked on to prevent construction dirt, rain splash and contaminated water run-off from staining. All excess water, whether clean or contaminated, should be kept off the wall during construction.
6. Wait until mortar is thoroughly set before cleaning (5 to 7 days). A full cure of mortar is not necessary.

When Cleaning

Beginning from the top of the wall

1. Lightly pre-wet or pre-cool the wall
2. EC Jet apply chemicals to whole drop to be cleaned
3. After first application of chemical scrape large chunks with the long handled scraper from first 8 ft. of the wall.
4. Check smears and tags to see if they crumble easily (N type mortar usually only requires one application. Harder mortars and extensive residue will benefit from repeated applications.)
5. If needed, repeat application to melt remaining residue and extend dwell time.
6. With NMD80, the longer it stays wet on the wall, the cleaner the result and the least amount of rinsing is required. After reapplication, scraping can be done further down the wall.

I. Choose the rinse style: Brick, split face and common block, natural stone, and precast use a high pressure rinse. Surface dyed block, and synthetic stone use a low pressure rinse.

II. Extended dwell times dramatically reduce the amount of scraping required further down the wall.

III. The amount of foaming reaction will lessen with each application. When you apply NMD80 to a wall that is thoroughly cleaned, there will be little to no foaming as it contacts the wall. Rinse time will be dramatically reduced.

7. Begin rinsing from the top down. Use long even strokes that overlap each other. Good chemical application means that your rinsing passes can be done quickly without having to get close to the wall with the high pressure nozzle. Rinsing determines much of the quality of the job.

8. Integrally colored architectural and gray block that is to be left natural should be damp-proofed with FABRISHIELD 653 Water Repellent after cleaning. Refer to our Damp- Proofing Recommendations.

Specifications

Clean integrally colored concrete block with FABRIKEM® NEW MASONRY CLEANER TYPE L as manufactured by Fabrikem Manufacturing Ltd. Apply the cleaner as per Mutual Materials Co. CONCRETE BLOCK CLEANING RECOMMENDATION.