Mutual Materials recommends cleaning as a standard final step on all hardscape installation projects. Cleaning the project can remove efflorescence, halos, scuff marks, job-site debris, and dirt; and enhance the color of your new hardscape project, including retaining walls.

For DIY / Homeowner use, Mutual Materials recommends Efflo Off Cleaner from SEK Surebond.

**Cleaning as a final installation step can:**

- Remove and prevent efflorescence
- Bring out the true color
- Prepare for sealing
- Result in happy customers

**WHAT IS EFFLORESCENCE?**

The white powdery deposit that sometimes appears on concrete products is called efflorescence. Efflorescence is a natural condition that is common with new concrete products and usually dissipates and clears up on its own over time. The white deposit is the residue of a soluble salt, carried to the surface of the product through the process of evaporation, and wet damp environments can increase efflorescence. Tips to reduce or eliminate efflorescence:

- During installation, immediately remove the plastic and install concrete product upon arrival.
- Store material in a dry area.
- Cleaning and sealing is the final step for new hardscape project installations will minimize the risk of efflorescence.
- Older projects can also be cleaned and sealed to reduce or remove these effects.

IMPORTANT: Efflorescence does NOT have any adverse effect on the integrity or durability of the paver, slab or concrete wall block.

*See reverse for instructions and equipment information.*
Cleaning Hardscape Installations with Efflo Off Cleaner:

1. Always test product on a small area (or sample hardscape) first and allow 24-hour dry-time to determine ease of application and desired results.

2. Lightly pre-wet (flash-cool) the pavement surface (do not soak). If plant material is nearby, protect and/or keep wet during detergent application.

3. Pre-mix Efflo Off at a ratio of 4-parts water to 1-part detergent.

4. Apply Efflo Off (diluted to 4:1 ratio) to the pavement surface to be cleaned. You can do this with a 1-gallon or 2-gallon plastic pump sprayer. Ensure to overlap each spray stroke to achieve full even coverage.

5. Allow product to dwell for 5 to 8 minutes, being careful to not allow the product to dry on the pavement surface. If liquid begins to dry on the surface, then re-apply to keep surface wet.

6. While the detergent is dwelling on the pavement, lightly agitate the detergent on the pavement surface with a push broom

7. **DO NOT RINSE.**

8. Once again, apply Efflo Off (diluted to 4:1 ratio) to the pavement surface. Allow product to dwell again for 2 to 4 minutes. This melts away any remaining residue/efflorescence.

9. Rinse with garden hose-end sprayer. Use long, even strokes that overlap each other.

10. Allow pavement to dry for 24 hours then inspect treatment. Repeat steps 1–8 as necessary, to achieve desired result.

**Note:** Complete information about Efflo Off, including the Safety Data Sheet, can be found online at www.sek.us.com.