Bowers Brick Veneer Care Guide

SEALING YOUR BRICKWORK

As with all Masonry products, to enhance the life, colour and durability of the product we recommend the use of a masonry sealer. Refer to Sealer Suppliers for application details.

CLEANING YOUR BRICKWORK

As best practice, throughout its life exterior concrete masonry will require:

- Annual exterior washing down – when washing down use a low pressure wash with natural detergent added to the water and soft brush
- **Do Not** Clean using a high pressure water blaster
- Removal of organic growths – lichens and mosses are cleaned by applying a proprietary moss remover.

From time to time unforeseen spillages and staining can make its way onto your brickwork. The removal of stains is not always easy, however by following the guidelines below, keeping your brickwork clean need not be a problem:

STEP 1: Identify the type of stain

STEP 2: Select the correct cleaning method.

STEP 3: Follow the procedures.

Follow the written instructions as well as those shown on the labels of proprietary cleaners. A good tip is to clean a small test area first to ensure the cleaning method has worked to your satisfaction.

EFFLORESCENCE

Efflorescence is a dry powdery deposit of white salts carried to the surface of the blockwork by water.

The calcium or hydroxide salts may originate from the:

- cement used in the mortar or grout
- sand used in the mortar or grout
- concrete masonry units
- sea spray
- garden fertilisers being absorbed into the masonry

Salts can be removed by dry brushing and disposal, well clear of the wall. Salts may reappear until the wall is completely dry.

If efflorescence is not removed when it appears it will carbonate and the residue will need to be removed by mechanical abrasion or the use of a proprietary (acidic) cleaning system.

Prior to using an Acidic cleaning agent seek advise

Calcium carbonate may leach from Portland cement and from hydrated lime and is often known as 'leaching'. It is insoluble in water, although it becomes invisible when wet.