



premium architectural masonry units

Cleaning
Verastone®
Verastone® Plus

Walls must be cleaned on a daily basis as block laying proceeds.

Masonry surfaces clean most effectively if the cleaning is done within 14-28 days after masonry installation. Mortar and grout smears that remain on the surface for a longer time result in a more difficult cleandown and may cause undesirable results.

Final cleandown of masonry surfaces should be completed before installation of windows, doors, hardware, light fixtures, roofing materials and any other non-masonry item that may be damaged by the cleaning product. If such fixtures have been installed, they must be protected before the cleaner is applied. All caulking and sealant materials should be in place and thoroughly cured before cleaning begins.

Protect all surrounding metal and non-masonry materials, painted surfaces and plant life from contact with the cleaner, residue or fumes.

Masonry Cleaners

Use Burnished Custom Masonry Cleaner by PROSOCO following manufacturer's instructions (dilute one part to 3 parts clean water). Available from manufacturer. **Do not powerwash.**

CAUTION! Never use muriatic acid on units.

Prior to overall application, always test the cleaner (minimum 4' x 4' area) to ensure suitability and desired results. Test each type of masonry and each type of stain. Allow test area to dry for 3 – 7 days before inspection and approval by the project architect or building owner. Clean test areas according to the application below and always make the test panel available throughout the cleaning project.

- Always pour cold water into an empty bucket first before carefully adding detergent.
- Never use hot water.
- Handle in polyethylene or rubber buckets only.
- Acidic materials and fumes will attack metal.

Exterior Test Application

The following cleaning procedure is recommended unless otherwise indicated during testing:

1. Thoroughly saturate a large portion of the masonry surface with clean water.
2. Using a densely-packed, soft-fibered masonry washing brush or low-pressure spray (50 psi maximum), apply diluted solution freely. (Do not apply Burnished Custom Masonry Cleaner with pressure spray above 50 psi. Such an application will drive the chemicals deep into the surfaces making it more difficult to rinse completely.)
3. Depending on the absorption rate of masonry and drying conditions, allow cleaning solution to remain on the wall for approximately five (5) minutes. Do not allow cleaner to dry into the masonry because it may leave a residue and cause staining.

General

- Keep walls clean by using brushes or rags and the burlap squares supplied on the Verastone and Verastone Plus pallets.
- Do not allow excess mortar lumps or smears to harden on the finished surfaces.
- Remove green mortar with burlap or a dry cloth.
- Wipe masonry blocks clean with burlap (provided with every other cube) as the blocks are laid each day.
- Protect stored materials and the wall prior to completion to prevent excessive water entry and external soiling.
- Protect the exposed portions of metal fixtures. (Harsh cleaning methods after walls have been erected may mar the surface of the blocks.)
- Protect adjacent masonry and floor area by saturating with water and flushing away any cleaning solution before it dries.

Materials

- Two plastic or hard rubber buckets
- Rubber gloves
- Soft fiber masonry brushes (or whitewash brushes)
- Wooden, plastic or other soft, non-staining scraping device
- Supply of “clean” wipers, such as lint-free cloths or paper towels
- Clean water
- Burnished Custom Masonry Cleaner (dilute one part to 3 parts of clean water). Do not apply the Burnished Custom Masonry Cleaner with pressure spray above 50 psi. It will cause efflorescence.

DO NOT USE ACID OR CLEANER WITH HCL BASE.

Cleaning Procedure 1

1. Brush clean water liberally on the surface area to be cleaned. Brush approximately one square yard at a time.
2. It is important that the masonry wall be kept wet at all times. Do not use dirty water.
3. Apply cleaning solution brushing in a circular motion to remove any unwanted mortar smears.
4. Remove excess lumps of mortar with the soft (wood or plastic) scraping device and re-apply cleaning solution.
5. Allow cleaning solution to remain on the surface for two or three minutes then wash off with liberal amounts of fresh, clean water.
6. Wipe the walls down completely dry with clean, dry wipers.

Cleaning Procedure 2

If liberal amounts of water cannot be used, an alternative procedure may be employed.

1. Soak a clean wiper in the cleaning solution. Wring it out so it is wet enough to dampen the surface, but dry enough so that the solution will not run down the wall.
2. Allow the solution to remain on the surface for two or three minutes. Remove excess lumps of mortar with the soft scraping device and repeat Step #1.
3. Wipe the wall completely dry with clean, dry wipers.

Note: To remove mortar smears that have been allowed to harden on the wall and cannot be removed by following the procedures listed above, a solution of Burnished Custom Masonry Cleaner by PROSOCO may be used with a dilution ratio of 1 part cleaner to 3 parts clean water, strictly following manufacturer's instructions.

WARNING! Never use muriatic acid solutions on Verastone or Verastone Plus units.

Final Cleandown

Clean the completed walls with a detergent masonry cleaner strictly following the manufacturer's instructions including thorough rinsing. Do not use acid or abrasives on the block surfaces. For stubborn mortar stains or smears, a 3:1 solution of Burnished Custom Masonry Cleaner by PROSOCO may be used as long as the walls are thoroughly wetted with clean water before applying the cleaning solution and thoroughly rinsed with clean water immediately after washing. Failure to strictly follow manufacturer's instructions can result in permanent damage to the finished faces.

DO NOT POWERWASH .



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Maintenance

Verastone and Verastone Plus units, properly installed and cleaned, need virtually no maintenance other than routine cleaning with standard commercial grade cleaning agents such as PINESOL® or FANTASTIK®. Graffiti, paint or dye may need special cleaning methods and products such as Trenwyth Graffiti Wizard® environmentally friendly cleaner. Contact manufacturer for specific cleaning recommendations. **DO NOT POWERWASH.**

Field Coat Application

For required field coat application instructions, see Pages VS 13–14.

Graffiti Removal Recommendation

Graffiti Wizard environmentally friendly cleaner removes most paints and permanent markers, varnish, glue, crayon, oil, grease, food spills, etc. from Verastone Plus surfaces. Apply Graffiti Wizard using a brush or cloth. Let stand 10 second to 20 minutes, depending on the severity of the stain. If using on a more porous or textured surface, a non-metallic stiff bristle brush may be required. Wipe the surface with a damp cloth. After the stain is removed, neutralize the surface with water making sure that all of the Graffiti Wizard is removed from the surface. Graffiti Wizard is available in 4-oz., 12-oz., 1 gallon and 5 gallon containers. To order, call (800) 233-1924. Always follow manufacturer's safety precautions. (See Graffiti Wizard® literature, TR2810, behind General Information tab.)