

# Maintenance Guidelines: Architectural Concrete Slabs

**Mutual Materials Architectural Concrete Slabs are manufactured to exacting standards under controlled conditions to produce a finished product that is both strong and durable. Our slabs come ready to install, require minimal jobsite clean up and do not require a sealer.**

**The following guidelines are meant to assist you in maintaining your architectural slab's original appearance and help prolong the life of the installation.**

## General Cleaning

When properly installed our architectural slabs do not require an aggressive cleaning treatment immediately after installation. Spot cleaning of any stains and removal of debris is usually all that is needed. A garden hose and stiff bristle brush can be used to hose down and scrub slabs as part of a general maintenance program. For stains and ground in dirt, there are a number of proprietary cleaning products that when used with pressurized cleaning equipment, are effective in removing dirt and stains.

*Care must be taken when using these cleaning products since some may contain acid. Depending upon concentration and dwell time, acid-based cleaners have the potential of altering the slab color. Likewise, the compatibility of these products with adjacent materials (waterproof membranes, insulation, sealants, hardware, etc.) needs to be adequately determined before use.*

## Efflorescence

A white powdery deposit that sometimes appears on architectural slabs is commonly called efflorescence. This deposit is the residue of a soluble salt that is carried to the surface of the slab through the process of evaporation. It is a natural condition that is common with new concrete products and will usually dissipate and clear up on its own over time. The recommended procedure is to allow this natural process to take place. Efflorescence does not have any adverse effect on the integrity or durability of the slab. Efflorescence can be minimized by immediately removing the plastic and installing slabs upon arrival at the jobsite and storing material in a dry area when stacked on pallets.

Heavier accumulations of efflorescence may require the use of a mild cleaning solution. As discussed above, care must be taken both in the application and compatibility of surrounding materials when using proprietary cleaning products.

## Sealing

Sealing of architectural slabs is not required but can be done to protect your slabs from dirt and stains, and to intensify the color. It is recommended the entire slab area be thoroughly cleaned before the application of a sealer. It is important to use a sealer that will allow the slab to breathe to avoid trapping any moisture or salt residues that may migrate to the surface. Follow the sealer manufacturer's instructions and check for any potential adverse impacts on surrounding materials before application.

## Snow Removal

Snow removal equipment can be used as long as care is taken not to scratch the surface of the slab. Do not use tire chains. Rubber or nylon tipped equipment will help prevent scratches.

*De-icing chemicals and salt can be detrimental to the slab surface and should not be used.*

*Mutual Materials offers a variety of cleaners and sealers for masonry and hardscape projects. To find the best solution for you, please contact us at (800) 477-3008.*



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