



## Cleaning of Cast Stone Masonry

### Stain Prevention

During construction, prevention against staining is mandatory and becomes the best solution for a clean finished project. Every effort should be taken to protect the Cast Stone during storage, setting, and after installation. Storage of Cast Stone should be above ground on non-staining planks or pallets. The storage site should be away from heavy construction traffic. Cast Stone stored for an extended period of time should be kept on pallets or non-staining tarpaulins. After setting, columns, pilasters, entry jambs, window cills and all stone with projecting profiles should be protected with non-staining material during the remaining construction.

### Final Wash of Cast Stone

Regardless of the degree of care exercised during construction, a final wash down maybe needed and, normally a dry clean brush or a wash down with clean water will suffice.

Special care may need to be taken when applying acidic cleaner to areas where joints are left open or where sealant is used as jointing material. The sealant manufacturer should be contacted to ascertain compatibility with cleaning materials.



### Common Stains on Cast Stone

The Most common stains, due to construction, are dirt and mortar. Dirt can be removed by using a dry clean stiff brush or fibreglass brush which can be used to re move light deposits. Wire or metal brushes should not be used as this will damage the Cast Stone surface.

Hydrochloric acid or one of a number of propriety cleaners can be used to remove lime bloom, mortar stains and deposits. Hydrochloric acid should be diluted to 7–10% and proprietary cleaners as per the manufacturers instructions. The stone and surrounding surfaces (particularly below the application area) should be wetted with water prior to any acid cleaning to prevent surface burning and washed again after acid cleaning.

It is possible that the acid can change the shade of the stone or texture so the whole stone may have to be treated. It is therefore recommended that an area which wont be seen or a sample of the Cast Stone be tested before cleaning with a mild acid solution. Take necessary steps to protect areas around the stone that maybe effected by the acid..



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