



## Precast Concrete Cleaning & Maintenance Guidelines

Precast concrete is very porous and is easily stained, but most stains that can occur are easily removed with regular cleaning. Cleaning should be done when humidity and temperature allow the product to dry as quickly as possible. Slow drying increases the possibility of efflorescence and discoloration. If something is spilled on the product all excess liquid should be immediately removed by placing an absorbent material over the spill. Avoid wiping the area as this can cause the spill to spread and drive the substance deeper into the GFRC. When spills or stains occur, try to deal with the problem sooner than later, as time may allow the substance to chemically bond with the product.

Many different techniques can be used to remove different kinds of stains. The following is a suggested order of appropriate procedures for removing dirt or stains.

- Dry Scrub the area with a stiff- fiber brush.
- Wet the surface with water and scrub the stain, afterwards thoroughly rinsing the surface with clean water
- Use a mild chemical cleaner/soap and again scrub the stain, afterwards thoroughly rinsing the surface with clean water. If you are using a new detergent or soap to clean the product we suggest testing it on an inconspicuous area to be sure that no damage or discoloration occurs. Strong acids, detergents, or chemicals should be avoided; even weaker acids could cause damage to the surface over time.
- For stubborn, built up stains, use power tools such as grinders, buffers or chisels to remove the problem areas. However, caution is to be used, as reckless use of tools can destroy the product.
- Steam or Flame cleaners can also be considered, with caution.
- Sandblasting may be considered if this method was originally used in exposing the surface of the unit

If you have any further questions or concerns about cleaning or maintaining this product, please contact us at the numbers listed. You may also refer to professional publications specializing in cleaning concrete and masonry or try the Portland Cement Association at [www.cement.org](http://www.cement.org).



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