

Procedure for the removal of efflorescence from masonry before painting

Remove as much efflorescence as possible with a dry stiff bristled broom.

If dry and removal with a stiff bristled brush is ineffective, it is preferable to remove efflorescence by scrubbing with warm water and a stiff broom or a pressure wash at a pressure setting of approximately 1500 PSI.

If this does not remove the efflorescence a scrub with a weak solution of hydrochloric acid may remove it. Make sure that full protective clothing, gloves splash goggles and boots are worn. Wear a respirator and do not breathe in any mist caused by the scrubbing.

Mix 1 part of hydrochloric acid to 15 parts of cold water. Use acid strictly as directed by the manufacturer. DO NOT ADD WATER TO CONCENTRATED ACID.

Pre-Flood the wall with water. Apply the acid solution to the wall, and leave for 5 minutes before removing efflorescence by scrubbing then flush the wall thoroughly with water.

Acid solutions will burn skin and eyes if contact occurs

Acid solutions will kill or damage grass and plants if contact occurs.

Try a test patch on a small scale first to ensure that this method will work.

Do not paint the surface until it is free of any residual acid and fully dry to a moisture level of 15% WME or less.

