

EFFLORESCENCE REMOVAL

The recommended process for removal of efflorescence is first to saturate the surface thoroughly with water. Water will prevent deep penetration of any acid. Wash with diluted muriatic acid consisting of five (5) parts hydrochloric to one hundred (100) parts water or twenty (20) parts acetic acid or vinegar to one hundred (100) parts water. When the acidic reaction (bubbling) has ceased, brush and rinse thoroughly with water. Immediately wash with an alkaline wash consisting of diluted household ammonia to achieve the proper alkalinity.

Great care must be taken when applying acid to portland cement based concrete surfaces. Acid will attack not only the calcium carbonate/sulfate efflorescence but will attack other calcium compounds which can produce calcium chloride. Therefore it is very important to neutralize the acid before it can attack other compounds in concrete.