

Cleaning of Brickwork

Introduction

In general, lime mortar requires little or no maintenance. However there may be times when some surface cleansing may be required to remove lime mortar deposits or graffiti.

The following options are in order of aggressiveness, always start with the weaker option first. Under no circumstances should a power wash be used.

1. Cleanse with water

In certain circumstances, cleaning with clean water and brushing the surface vigorously may be sufficient to remove mortar deposits.

2. Cleanse with White Vinegar & Water

White vinegar, being slightly acidic mixed with water 20:1 ratio will dissolve build-up of lime mortar deposits on brickwork.

When mixed, brush the solution onto the surface using a stiff scrubbing brush. Allow to soak for 10-15 minutes
Rinse with clean water and repeat as necessary.

3. Muriatic Acid (brick cleaner)

Muriatic acid is a much stronger chemical composition and should only be considered if the build-up of mortar deposits are particularly heavy. Mix 1 part muriatic acid with 12 parts water, add the acid to the water to avoid splatter, and mix thoroughly.

Soak the brickwork with clean water then scrub the acid solution onto the surface and leave for 10-15 minutes. Rinse thoroughly with clean water and ensure all traces of acid are removed.

4. [Safe Option] EnviroSafe Masonry Cleaner (from EMS)

Stronger than muriatic acid, yet 100% acid free and biodegradable. Not harmful to human skin, plant life, animals and aquatic species – Tel 01438 906293 for availability

5. Graffiti & surface protection

Use PSS20 from www.pss-interservice.com

Completely permeable to water vapour. When cleaning down with jet spray to remove graffiti, operate at low pressure and do not aim direct onto mortar surface as this may disrupt the joint. Aim downwards.

Health & Safety

When using hazardous materials, please make sure you have the correct ppe and you follow guidelines on data sheet

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