



Klen Cleaning Guide for Masonry (concrete) Pavers and Retaining Walls

Introduction to Masonry Products

Masonry products are by their nature both porous and have a reactive surface. The porosity varies from manufacturer to manufacturer and even between products made by the same company. This means any liquid placed on the surface will travel into the paver with the less porous (more dense) pavers taking a little more time than the more porous paver. Because the pavers are very porous this creates a large surface area within the paver that reacts with and holds onto liquids that enter the paver eg. red wine, cooking oil, sunscreen lotion etc. Once in the paver these stains are very difficult to remove.

Similarly if pavers are being grouted then grout smear is difficult to remove for all the above reasons and additionally the grout material is similar chemically to the body of the paver.

Sealing is therefore important to protect your paver by putting a layer of “resin” on the surface of the masonry material to insulate it from permanent staining. Sealing will not stop your pavers from getting dirty but will make them easier to clean and help prevent permanent marking of the paver. Sealing is an investment to protect your substantial capital outlay in your new and attractive paved area.

Selecting an Appropriate Cleaner

Pavers should be dry and clean before sealing. The typical stains and marks you may need to remove before sealing include efflorescence, organic stains, mineral stains. Klen has developed an appropriate cleaner for each of these types of marks and stains. We also have cleaners for regular maintenance of sealed surfaces and rubber tyre marks on sealed surfaces particularly driveways.

Efflorescence is the appearance of white salts on the surface of the paver which are left behind after moisture carrying dissolved salts from the bedding material or from inside the body of the paver evaporates from the heat of the sun. This is why it is important to use road base, washed alluvial sand or a concrete base upon which to lay pavers and not cracker dust which is a major and continuing source of dissolved salts contributing to efflorescence. Efflorescence is removed with Klen’s **Anti Eff**, a special mix of acids that will minimise harm to the pavers. Simply wet the paver, apply Anti Eff that has been diluted with water at 1 to 25 for 30 seconds, brush gently with a nylon brush for 30 seconds and wash off with copious amounts of fresh water and neutralize the area for any residual acid with a weak alkaline solution. A weak solution of kitchen sink washing detergent would be suitable.

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Organic stains include;

- mould,
- algae,
- tannin stains from leaves, twigs and flowers,
- bird and bat droppings
- timber stains from furniture and construction timbers

We recommend Klen's **Maestro**, a strong bleaching compound. Dilute 1 part **Maestro** to 4 parts water and apply directly to the stain after removing any bulk material from the bird or bat droppings. Leave for approximately 20 minutes and the stain will disappear. Wash off the area with fresh water and repeat if the stain persists.

Retaining walls using the segmented block construction and particularly split face finishes are prone to mould and algae growth as the concrete retains moisture especially if it has not been sealed. Use Klen's **Maestro** is excellent for removing this mould in conjunction with a pressure cleaner. Once dry, we recommend sealing with Klen's **Clear Seal** which will protect the wall from further mould growth for four to five years. See Klen's Guide to Sealing Masonry Pavers and Retaining Walls

Mineral stains are typically;

- grout smear from grouting the pavers,
- rust stains from metal objects,
- dirt from surrounding areas such as red or black soil
- cutting fluid dribble from wet-saw cut pavers,
- concrete splatter,
- core-fill dribble runs,
- rubber tyre and boot marks left on unsealed paver surface

To remove these marks we recommend Klen's **Anti Eff**. Use the same process as described for treating Efflorescence.

Grease and Oil Marks should be wiped up immediately before they penetrate into the fine pores of the paver as they are difficult to remove. Use of Klen's **HD Cleaner**, a strong alkaline cleaner, in hot water at 1 part cleaner to 10 parts water put on the area of the stain and left for two

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minutes then lightly scrubbed and washed off. If the stain persists repeat the process and for more difficult stains the concentration of the cleaner can be increased. Refer to the Technical Bulletin for **HD Cleaner** for further details.

Rubber tyre marks on sealed surfaces are removed by applications of **S21 Multi Purpose Cleaner** direct to the mark, leave for two minutes, scrub with a nylon brush and wash with water.

Cleaning after Sealing to maintain the pavers we recommend Klen's **Refresh**. **Refresh** is designed for use in cold, warm or hot water and will remove and clean food deposits; general dirt, soil and grime build up and will prevent transfer of these soiling agents to other areas such as carpets etc. by foot traffic. Sweep before cleaning, dilute **Refresh** in warm or hot water at the rate of 20mls **Refresh** per litre of water, and mop or brush onto the surface and mop or hose off after cleaning and allow to dry.

Cleaning before re Sealing a Sealed Surface

You should ensure the surface is clean and dry and has no grease or oil which will interfere with the application of the sealer. A general clean with Klen's **HD Cleaner** in warm water at 1 part cleaner to 50 parts water applied to the surface, allow to sit for one minute then a gentle scrub followed by a fresh water rinse and allow to dry should be sufficient. For any specific stains use the recommended cleaner for that mark as described above.

As Klen does not know all the circumstances in your situation - we recommend you test a small area first to confirm the suggested procedure and to refine your technique.

Please observe the safety instructions on the label and in the Technical Bulletin.

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