

Yorkshire Cast Stone Ltd.

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Data Sheet 3

Cleaning & Maintenance

As good quality cast stone is a highly durable material it should not, in the natural course of events, require any long - term maintenance if correctly handled and installed. However, every effort should be taken to protect the cast stone items from contamination and routine maintenance of other elements of the building fabric is important e.g. keeping roof coverings, gutters and joints etc. in good condition and properly pointed.

Cleaning is mostly undertaken for aesthetic reasons, but, for instance, if decay is found around cracks and encrustations or open joints are being obscured, then these are practical grounds for the removal of dirt.

Cleaning

Before any cleaning of cast stone is begun, there are some points to consider

- Because cast stone behaves in a similar fashion to its natural counterpart, the same precautions should be applied to cast stone as is used with the natural material
- Any cleaning will expose the underlying cast stone and various elements of the structure may have weathered and caused changes in colour. The effect after cleaning may be a patchy finish
- Unless dirt is causing decay to the surface, or staining the underlying stone – in which case remedial action may be appropriate – then the fact that cast stone may be dirty is unlikely to cause a problem

Precautions

- In all cases of cleaning, professional advice/ the manufacturer should be sought before any treatment begins. Any subsequent treatment should be tested on a small and inconspicuous sample area before any full application.
- All pointing/joints should be inspected before treatment begins to ensure that it is in a sound condition
- Always use experienced operatives for the cleaning process
- Any company undertaking the cleaning process must comply fully with Health and Safety Regulations

Repairs

Although in many cases it is possible to repair chips etc., it is advised that you contact the supplier as techniques vary between manufacturers.

Repair mix and instructions are available along with advice and information.

Please note that the repair mix is similar to the original casting mix and will, therefore, take time to weather to the colour of the item.

Efflorescence

Efflorescence, or lime bloom as it is sometimes known, is a temporary, natural occurrence that may appear as a white deposit covering part, or all of the surface of products containing cement.

It is temporary and will eventually disappear as a result of normal weathering.

The length of time it will take depends on several factors, including atmospheric pollution, rainfall etc.

Products are more susceptible to efflorescence under damp conditions, so the risk of occurrence will be reduced by protection on site before and during installation.

Whilst it is better to allow efflorescence to disappear naturally, it may, however be removed chemically by using a proprietary acid washing agent.

As the cast stone manufacturer should be consulted before applying any chemicals to its product, details of the acid wash may be obtained from them.

The information contained within these data sheets are given only as a guide and should not be assumed to meet all requirements.

Please contact Yorkshire Cast Stone Ltd. for further information and guidance.