

# MASONRY PRODUCT CARE INFORMATION



MARCH 2021

All products should be carefully inspected for damage or defects upon delivery and prior to being laid. All products are supplied expressly in accordance with our Terms and Conditions of sale meeting the AS/NZ standard at current time of supply.

## STORAGE CONDITION

- We recommend all masonry units on site are covered with plastic to protect from wet weather.
- Whenever possible air should be allowed to circulate around and through the pallet.
- At all times keep masonry units clean during laying.

## COLOUR VARIATION

- The colour tones of masonry units may vary significantly between production batches and regions, due to the nature of the raw materials.
- To achieve an even blend of colour when installing masonry, it is desirable to mix from 3 or 4 different pallets.

## EFFLORESCENCE

Efflorescence is a natural phenomenon experienced to a variety of degrees by all concrete products and is to be anticipated on any job. It is a deposit of white salts carried to the surface of the masonry by water, and happens most commonly when the unit is exposed to moisture. Efflorescence will likely continue to occur until the moisture source is stopped, usually by sealing. Efflorescence can calcify with time and become difficult to remove. Efflorescence is not considered to be a material defect, but rather a naturally occurring issue common to all forms of concrete masonry. While Firth attempts to minimise the occurrence of efflorescence, we are unable to prevent or control this occurrence. Firth do not replace products that effloresce.

### TRADE TIPS

There are some easy ways you can minimise the risk of efflorescence:

- 1 If you receive your concrete masonry products and it's going to be a few weeks before you install them, unwrap the pallet and store them in a covered, dry place so they don't get wet.
- 2 During the construction process protect masonry units from moisture and wet weather.
- 3 Once construction is completed (or during construction in some cases) allow units to dry then clean, and seal them with a suitable sealer (subject to the manufacturer's specification).

### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO MINIMISE THE VISUAL IMPACT OF EFFLORESCENCE?

- Remove the effloresce immediately after it occurs. It should be scrubbed off with a stiff brush whilst it is still in its soft powdered form.
- If required, treat the surface with a specific masonry cleaning product, Firth recommends Dricon® Concrete Treatment.

### Dricon® CT, the safe way to remove efflorescence and clean concrete surfaces!



- In severe cases, treat the surface with a mechanical cleaning process such as light sanding, polishing or grinding.
- Always trial a small less visible area first to determine if you are getting the result that you want as these processes will change the appearance of the surface.
- Seal the masonry units as soon as possible with a suitable sealer to prevent moisture getting in.
- Firth strongly recommends engaging a professional contractor to provide advice and offer cleaning, sealing and waterproofing solutions.

Before installation, if you have any concerns or questions please make contact with your local Firth representative or call 0800 800 576.