

Best Practices for Cleaning Architectural Concrete Masonry Units (ACMU)

As masonry work progresses, clean mortar droppings and mortar splatters with a dry brush. After mortar has cured for a period of seven days, the cleaning process can begin. Always clean a small, hidden test area first.

Johnson Concrete Products (JCP) recommends NMD80 (New Masonry Detergent) cleaner from EacoChem, utilizing the EC Jet application wand. The EC Jet ensures proper chemical dilution and regulates the amount of pressure that can be applied. Light Duty Concrete Cleaner from ProSoCo is an acceptable alternate to NMD80 if used according to manufacturer's specifications with pressure below 50psi. Custom Masonry Cleaner by ProSoCo should only be used on splitface ACMU; its use is not recommended on ground, polished, smooth or cast stone units. Vana-Trol, SureKlean 600 and muriatic acid are not appropriate cleaners for any JCP ACMU. **Vana-Trol, SureKlean 600, and muriatic acid have been shown to cause discoloration, etching, and/or haziness when used on ACMU.**

Instructions for cleaning ACMU with NMD80:

1. Beginning from the top of the wall, lightly pre-wet or pre-cool the wall.
2. Begin applying NMD80 with the EC Jet low pressure (50psi) application wand from the top to bottom, using even, overlapping passes to ensure full coverage of chemical on the surface.
 - Apply cleaning material to the entire drop or section of wall that can be cleaned without allowing the chemical to dry on the surface.
3. After the first application of cleaning material, scrape the large chunks with a long handled scrapper from the first 8 feet of wall.
4. Check smears and tags to see if they crumble easily.
5. If needed, repeat NMD80 application to melt remaining residue and extend dwell time.
 - Do not rinse with water between applications.
6. After re-application, scrape further down the wall if necessary.
7. Once smears and tags crumble easily, begin rinsing from top down using long, even strokes that overlap each other. A thorough rinse is necessary to avoid leaving any cleaning material on the surface or in the masonry unit.

While NMD80 with EC Jet is the most foolproof masonry cleaning system on the market, any chemical, including NMD80, can damage the face of ACMU if:

- Applied with too much pressure
- Applied with improper dilution
- Applied to a wall that's not been properly pre-wet
- Allowed to dry on the face of the masonry unit
- Not properly rinsed