

CONCRETE MASONRY

Cleaning a concrete masonry wall

Isobloc recommendations for cleaning a concrete masonry wall while preserving the colour, texture and uniformity of the blocks.

1 General approach

Cleaning a concrete masonry wall must always begin with the gentlest methods. The goal is to remove deposits without altering the block's surface, colour or texture.

2 Temperature conditions

Cleaning must be carried out only when the outdoor temperature is above 5 °C, and ideally between 10 °C and 25 °C. No washing should be done in winter conditions or when the concrete is frozen.

3 Recommended methods

a · Water + mild soap

Basic cleaning using a nylon brush. Suitable for dust, general dirt and light staining.

b · Degreaser or TSP (trisodium phosphate)

Handles more stubborn marks: pollution, atmospheric deposits, grease. Apply according to the manufacturer's instructions, then rinse thoroughly.

c · Non-acidic specialty masonry cleaners

Recommended for pigmented or smooth surfaces. Do not alter colour. Useful for light efflorescence or persistent stains.

4 Use of muriatic acid — last resort

Muriatic acid (hydrochloric acid) may be used only to remove lime deposits or efflorescence on non-pigmented, non-burnished concrete.

DILUTION	CONTACT TIME	NEUTRALIZATION
1 part acid to 10 parts water (always add the acid to the water)	30 seconds to 2 minutes maximum	Water + baking soda, then rinse thoroughly

5 Important note — dark colours & smooth surfaces

Muriatic acid is **strongly discouraged** on pigmented, smooth or dark concrete blocks (black, anthracite). Reasons:

■ Discolouration or lightening

■ Permanent stains or marbled effect

■ Alteration of pigments and non-uniformity

Operational summary

- ✓ Always start with gentle cleaning.
- ✓ Acid: only on grey, non-burnished concrete.
- ✓ Non-acidic products for pigmented or dark blocks.
- ✓ Always test a small area before any specialty cleaning.