

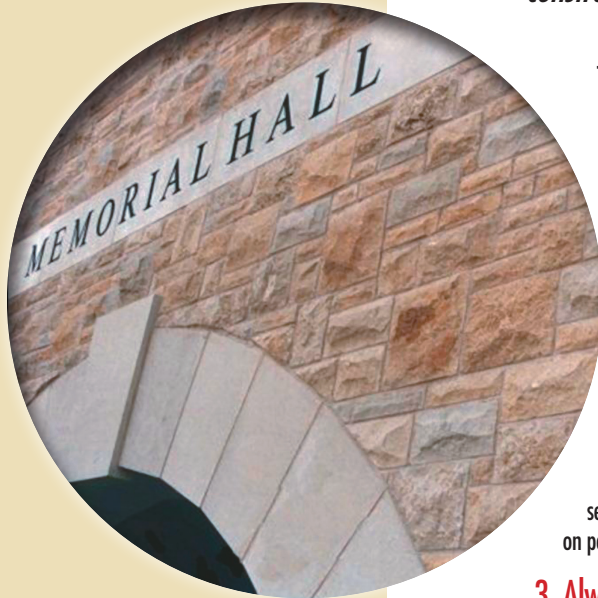


# New Rules-Natural Stone

for final clean-down of newly constructed natural stone buildings

*"Dollar for dollar, nothing has more impact on the public's perception of a newly constructed masonry building, than its final clean-down."*

— David W. Boyer



## Why do we need new rules?

Because long gone are the days when cleaning masonry meant red clay brick and gray mortar only. Long gone are the days of "one size fits all" post construction cleaning of new masonry.

Today's masonry includes countless styles of clay brick; concrete brick; and manufactured, cast and natural stone. Trying to remove the excess mortar after construction without regard for each substrate's unique characteristics can mean disaster — color loss, etched mortar joints, wand marks and burned masonry.

The good news is that by following a few simple guidelines, you can bring home great results every time on any masonry surface — brick, block, manufactured stone — or any combination of these and other masonry units.

Some of those guidelines like "Always test" are timeless. Others, like "clean early," have been around, but are increasingly important. Still others, such as "know your surface" are new rules for masons brought up in the traditions of "masonry equals brick or block." Today - more than ever before - people must understand that different building materials demand a different approach to cleaning.

## 1. Know your surface.

Type and texture of the stone you're cleaning are important considerations. Some stones - sandstone, slate, quartzite, granite and gneiss - are fairly resistant to the acidic cleaners needed to remove excess mortar. For these, the care you take when cleaning clay brickwork pretty much applies. Many common building stones, however, are acid sensitive. Limestone, marble and travertine can be irreparably damaged by cleaners appropriate for the acid-resistant stone varieties. To tell whether you've got acid-sensitive or acid-resistant stone, use a drop of vinegar or a dilute acidic cleaner. If it bubbles, it's acid-sensitive. If it doesn't bubble it's acid-resistant. This knowledge will help you choose the right cleaner and level of care you need for cleaning.

## 2. Use the right Sure Klean® cleaner.

For acid-resistant stone, Sure Klean® 600 Detergent or Sure Klean® 101 Lime Solvent are appropriate. For acid-sensitive stone, Sure Klean® Vana Trol® or Enviro Klean® Safety Klean are the right choices. Don't use these cleaners on polished stone. NEVER USE RAW ACID ON ANY STONE.

## 3. Always test.

Even if you think you know the surface, and you have the right cleaner — test the cleaner on a small, out-of-the-way section of the wall. Testing will help you determine the most efficient dwell times and dilution rates. More importantly, you'll avoid costly unpleasant surprises.

## 4. Use the mildest dilution that gives effective results.

The higher the dilution with fresh water, the safer your natural stone masonry will be. It's particularly important on smooth and/or acid-sensitive natural stone. How do you know what the effective dilution rate is? See rule #3.

## 5. Clean early.

Don't let mortar cure too long — particularly high-strength mortar. The longer unwanted mortar smears cure, the harder they are to remove. It's a big problem on many natural stone masonries. When your walls consist of smooth and/or acid-sensitive stone, the optimal time to clean is 7 - 14 days after the mortar joints are tooled. For rough-textured and/or acid-resistant stone, the cleaning window is 7 - 21 days.

## 6. Basics still apply. Follow them.

- **Use lots of water** to pre-wet the stone before applying the cleaner. If you don't pre-wet, you're more likely to cause staining and excessive erosion of the mortar joints. Some staining can be corrected — for a price. Damage the mortar joints, however, and you've reduced the weather resistance of the entire wall. Short of re-pointing, that kind of damage is irreversible. Use lots more water to rinse the spent cleaner and dissolved soiling from the surface. 6 - 8 gallons per minute is ideal.
- **400 - 1,000 psi is the safest**, effective pressure for rinsing dissolved soiling and spent cleaner from the cleaned stone. Higher psi risks wand marks and eroded mortar joints.
- **Follow all safety information** on the product label. It's there to protect YOU!
- **Never go it alone.** Questions or problems? Call your distributor, masonry cleaner manufacturer, or the manufacturer's local field rep. Your success is their success.

## 7. Protect what you clean.

When the cleaned masonry is dry, apply a penetrating, breathable weather-repellent. By keeping water out of the stone and masonry joints, you break the destructive freeze/thaw and wet/dry cycles that can crack and spall masonry walls. You'll also help prevent other water-related problems like efflorescence. For most natural stone, use Sure Klean® Weather Seal Natural Stone Treatment.

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