

EXTRA CLEANING TIPS SPECIFIC FOR PGH™ BRICKS – HIGH IRON CONTENT

Brick cleaning is a specialist trade, and should only be undertaken by a professional to decrease the potential for damage to the face of your beautiful bricks. Brick cleaning is an aggressive trade – the chemicals and high water pressures used can easily damage the product if not done correctly.



As a matter of good practice and to reduce the need for brick cleaning, PGH Bricks & Pavers™ recommend the following be done on each work site to reduce the potential for damage to brickwork:

- Lay the bricks as clean as possible
- Lay bricks with industry specification mortar
- Cover brickwork
- Reduce mortar splatter hitting the wall (which turns into mortar dags) from the mortar board/tray by placing an extra plank on its edge against the wall
- Bricks should be cleaned within 3 to 14 days of laying

For more detailed information, ask for a copy of the “Brick Cleaning Supplement” brochure from PGH Bricks & Pavers™.



As not all bricks from all manufacturers are the same due to different raw materials being used and different processes to make them.

To prevent any issues in the future it is a good idea to ensure no active acid has been left on the wall which may react with galvanised downpipes, fascia, brass taps or fittings like letterbox slots. Bricks with high iron content can also react with acid residue allowing iron stains to form over time. Water will not render acid inert it will only dilute it. When the water evaporates the acid will remain. Bricks should be neutralised by the application of a bicarbonate solution.

A Neutraliser formula is 10 grams of washing soda or 50 grams of bicarbonate of soda per litre of water (Ref. Think Brick Australia, “Industry Reference Guide”, Pg 31).

Turbo or rotary head attachments damage brickwork and mortar and are not recommended for use in brickcleaning.



PGH Bricks & Pavers™ provide the following tips for cleaning their range of products, and this should be done in conjunction with the instructions of Think Brick’s “Cleaning Masonry” resource.

Bricks with high iron content (Queensland bricks)

Generally, bricks manufactured in Queensland (but not limited to) have a high iron content and a high rate of absorption.

- 1 Scrape as much of the excess mortar from the face of the brick as possible.
- 2 Ensure bricks are fully saturated with water before applying any acid.
- 3 To test the effectiveness of using the acid cleaning method, sample a small area first before using a full work area.
- 4 Keep the work area to a small area, say no larger than 9 square metres.
- 5 It is recommended to use a neutraliser after cleaning to reduce the chance of iron stains forming.

