

## CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS

### Inspection

PRAIRIE stone faces shall be free of chips, cracks, crazes or any other imperfections that would detract from the overall appearance of the finished wall when viewed from a distance of 20 feet at right angles to the wall with diffused lighting.

### Cleaning During Installation

Walls must be cleaned on a daily basis as block laying proceeds during installation using brushes, rags and burlap squares.

Do not allow excess mortar lumps or smears to harden on the finished surfaces. Harsh cleaning methods after walls have been erected may mar the surface of the units.

Final cleandown of masonry surfaces should be completed before installation of windows, doors, hardware, light fixtures, roofing materials and any other non-masonry item that may be damaged by the cleaning product. If such fixtures have been installed, they must be protected before the cleaner is applied. All caulking and sealant materials should be in place and thoroughly cured before cleaning begins.

Protect all surrounding metal and non-masonry materials, painted surfaces and plant life from contact with the cleaner, residue or fumes.

### Masonry Cleaners

Use masonry cleaners such as:

*PROSOCO Inc.*

Burnished Custom Masonry Cleaner (dilute 1:4)

Custom Masonry Block Cleaner (1:6)

Vanatrol (1:6)

*Diedrich Technologies Inc.*

Diedrich 222 Cast Stone & Burnished Masonry Cleaner (1:4)

Specialty Masonry Cleaner (1:5)

Carefully follow manufacturer's instructions.

*DO NOT apply cleaners with pressure spray above 50 psi.*

**CAUTION!** Never use muriatic acid on units.

### Test Application

Prior to overall application, always test the cleaner (minimum 4' x 4' area) to ensure suitability and desired results. Test each type of masonry and each type of stain. Allow test area to dry for 3 – 7 days before inspection and approval by the project architect or building owner. Clean test areas according to the application below and always make sure the test panel is available throughout the cleaning project.

### Application

The following cleaning procedure is recommended unless otherwise indicated during testing:

1. Thoroughly saturate a large portion of the masonry surface with clean water.
2. Using a densely packed, soft-fibered masonry washing brush or low-pressure spray (50 psi maximum), apply diluted solution freely. (Do not apply cleaner with pressure spray above 50 psi. Such an application will drive the chemicals deep into the surfaces, making it more difficult to rinse completely.)
3. Depending on the absorption rate of masonry and drying conditions, allow cleaning solution to remain on the wall for approximately five (5) minutes. Do not allow cleaner to dry into the masonry because it may leave a residue and cause staining.

**Note:** *To remove mortar smears that have been allowed to harden on the wall and cannot be removed by following the procedures listed above, a stronger solution of the cleaner may be applied. The surface must remain wet at all times strictly following manufacturer's instructions.*

**WARNING!** *Never use high pressure on PRAIRIE stone. This may leave unsightly wand marks on the face of the units. Failure to strictly follow manufacturer's instructions can result in permanent damage to the finished faces.*

### Materials

- Two plastic or hard rubber buckets
- Rubber gloves
- Soft fiber masonry brushes (or whitewash brushes)
- Wooden, plastic or other soft, non-staining scraping device
- Supply of "clean" wipers, such as lint-free cloths or paper towels
- Clean water
- Specified cleaning solution
- **DO NOT USE ACID**