

THE REMOVAL OF EFFLORESCENCE – SUGGESTED METHODS FOR TRIALS

ENDEAVOURING TO FIX THE PROBLEM OF EFFLORESCENCE ON CONCRETE & MORTAR



MARK 2

To significantly reduce or eliminate the possibility of the occurrence of white crystalline salt bloom known as efflorescence, as well as providing other important benefits Ability's product 'EFFLOREIN®' Mark 2 is recommended for use.

This powder admixture is an economical in use, multi-benefit admixture powder intended to be added and thoroughly mixed into concrete, mortar and grout mixes.

Efflorescence, reduced or eliminated with the use of 'EFFLOREIN®' Mark 2 powder is a classic example of a problem where 'prevention is better than cure'.

However, we are often asked:

'HOW CAN EFFLORESCENT BLOOM BE REMOVED FROM HARDENED CEMENT BOUND MATERIALS?'

In replying and in answering this question we usually make the comment that we are not experts in this area and that in some cases efflorescence has proven impossible to remove but suggest that the following methods may be tried:

1. When the concrete, mortar or grout has set and is hard enough to withstand it, hose the area suffering from efflorescence with water at high pressure several times over several days. If this is ineffective, go to number 2.
2. After taking the required environmental, and health and safety precautions (particularly the required and important use of protective clothing, gloves and a suitable face/eye mask), carefully scrub

lightly and *uniformly* with a broom – an applied acid/water mixture of:

1 part by volume phosphoric acid* added *carefully* to 5-10 parts clean, drinkable water (NOT the reverse)

to *lightly* etch the efflorescence away.

***Phosphoric Acid has apparently been shown for this purpose to be superior to hydrochloric acid.**

We have been advised that Phosphoric Acid is available in 16.5kg polyboys from Spectrum Distributors Pty Ltd, PH: 1300 550 400.

Assuming that this method is successful, try to avoid etching the surface too deeply and unevenly as this may result in a surface having a non-uniform texture and as a result possibly a perceived difference in the concrete or mortar colour from one area to another.

3. Then rinse well with plenty of hosed, clean, drinkable water several times.

Further printed information about Ability's 'EFFLOREIN®' Mark 2 multi-functional and efflorescence controlling admixture powder and its use in just about all grades and classes of pre-mixed concrete, grouts and mortars – including mortars used for rendering walls and masonry laying - will be forwarded upon request.