

# BEAUTIFUL FOREVER

*A Guideline For Maintaining Your Home*

**BRICKWORKS**  
— BUILDING PRODUCTS —



*a guideline for maintaining your home*

# BEAUTIFUL PRODUCTS

*that last forever*

Brickworks Building Products is one of Australia's largest building products companies, with a stable of brands dedicated to manufacturing products for Australians and the world for over 100 years.

Our current products include bricks, pavers, masonry blocks, retaining wall blocks, precast concrete panels, concrete and terracotta roof tiles, timber products, terracotta façade systems and specialised building systems.

With over 1200 staff throughout Australia and New Zealand, we pride ourselves on our commitment to technical excellence through providing accurate and informative advice.

Through product innovation and quality, together with outstanding service, Brickworks Building Products strives to create an unrivalled position as Australia's Best Building Products company.

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*Stylish living  
made easy*

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# BRICKS

## *Preventative care is the first step*

Gardens add natural beauty to any home, however it is essential that garden beds, paved, concreted or tiled areas are below the level of the installed damp proof membrane and do not cover the weep holes in your brickwork.

A weephole is simply a drain hole through a wall which is commonly the height of a brick and is normally the first or second brick course above ground level.

Building any form of structure over your weep holes can allow termites to infiltrate your barrier or restrict the drainage of moisture that penetrates your brickwork.





Daniel Robertson Traditional Red Blend

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## *Cleaning your brickwork*

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From time to time unforeseen spillages and staining can make its way onto your brickwork. The removal of stains is not always easy, however by following the guidelines below, keeping your brickwork clean need not be a problem.

### *Step 1: Identify the type of stain*

Make sure you know the type of stain you are trying to remove to ensure you are using the most effective cleaning method.

### *Step 2: Select the correct cleaning method*

Once you have identified the stain, you can use the following cleaning methods to remove the stain.

### *Step 3: Follow the procedures*

Follow the written instructions as well as those shown on the labels of proprietary cleaners. A good tip is to clean a small test area first to ensure the cleaning method has worked to your satisfaction.

### *Step 4: Safety precautions are essential*

Make sure you read safety precautions thoroughly, wear protective clothing and store any chemicals safely.

**Note:** *Hydrochloric Acid is commonly used to clean mortar stains from brickwork when it is initially laid. It does not need to be used at any other time during the life of your brickwork. If used incorrectly it can cause unsightly staining that is extremely difficult to remove.*

## Removing common stains

### *Efflorescence*

Efflorescence is a white powdery deposit found on the surface of brickwork. It is generally not harmful and will weather away with time. The best way to remove efflorescence is to brush it off when the brickwork is dry. Wetting the wall usually dissolves efflorescence back into the brickwork allowing it to reappear again when the wall dries out.

**Remedy:** Remove with stiff brush when the wall is dry.

### *Adhesive Tape*

**Remedy:** Wipe with petrol, lighter fluid or paint stripper.

### *Blood*

**Remedy:** Wet the stain with water then cover it with an even layer of sodium peroxide powder. Sprinkle with water or cover with a water soaked bandage and leave for five minutes. Scrub vigorously with clean water and then neutralise using a five percent solution of acetic acid (vinegar) and rinse with water at end of treatment.

### *Coffee Stains*

**Remedy:** Apply a cloth that has been saturated in a solution of one part glycerin to four parts water. When the stain is drawn into the cloth, rinse with water.

### *Egg*

**Remedy:** Wipe the stained area with acetone until the ink is removed.

### *Ink & Biro*

Different inks require different treatments.

**Remedy:** Wipe with white spirits, acetone or apply an acetone poultice to help draw out the stain.

### *Soot & Smoke*

**Remedy:** Minor stains can be removed with sugar soap. Mix 500g sugar soap with 2 litres hot water and apply liberally with a brush. After stains disappear, scrub with a mixture of detergent and a household scouring powder containing sodium hypochlorite. A scouring cleanser such as Ajax can be used to remove stubborn stains by scrubbing. Wash off with detergent and water. Alternatively, bleach the area using sodium hypochlorite or calcium hypochlorite solution in a poultice.

### *Soils*

**Remedy:** Mix a strong detergent solution of one cup detergent to five litres hot water. Scrub and rinse well.

### *Marker Pens*

**Remedy:** Wipe off with acetone or a poultice of acetone and talc.

### *Oil, Grease & Animal Fats*

**Remedy:** Apply an engine degreaser emulsifier or a strong detergent, then rinse well.

### *Organic Growths / Fungus, Mould & Moss*

Porous masonry provides a benign environment for organic growth when it is continuously moist, especially in light but shady conditions and when there are plenty of nutrients available. You will need to check downpipes, flashings etc for ways to stop continuous moist conditions. If brickwork dries, organic growth should not occur.

**Remedy:** Treat with diluted sodium hypochlorite bleach with a small amount of liquid detergent. Liquid chlorine, Exitmould and White King are suitable for this application. Clean with hot water and detergent. Repeat as necessary.

### *Paint & Graffiti*

These can be difficult stains to remove, particularly if they have aged. Therefore, it is best to treat them when fresh.

### *Wax Crayon*

**Remedy:** Wax crayon can usually be removed with acetone. It should be applied with a rag or tissue on smooth surfaces or with a small brush on textured surfaces. If it tends to spread, try using a poultice and brush off when dry.

### *Acrylic Paint*

**Remedy:** A commercial paint remover should be used.

### *Oil Based Paints or Enamels*

**Remedy:** Burn off and follow with scraping and wire brushing.

### *Fresh Aerosol Paint*

**Remedy:** A commercial paint remover should be used

### *Dried Paint*

**Remedy:** Flood the stained area for a few minutes with a paint remover of the methylene dichloride type. Scrub to loosen the paint film. Flush with water to wash away the loosened paint. Scrub with scouring powder until the stain is removed. Flush with water.

**Note:** Specialty proprietary graffiti removal products are also available.

**It is important to remember, that should a stain be too large or too difficult to remove, then the services of a professional cleaner should be sought.**

# PAVERS

## *Preventative care is the first step*

Maintaining your paved area will ensure that it holds its good looks and natural appeal forever, ensuring added resale value to your home.

Cleaning methods and guidelines are provided in this booklet, however should you be in the process of wanting to do some paving yourself, we can provide you with information on our paving products and a free copy of our How To Lay Pavers guide.





Austral Bricks Riviera Imperia

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## *Cleaning your paved area*

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All pavements are subject to spillages, soiling and a build up of dirt and grime over time. By following some of the outlined guidelines and cleaning procedures, maintaining the good look of your pavers need not be a problem. Where possible, wash your paved area with clean water and a detergent. If this fails to bring your area to an acceptable level of cleanliness, then the following cleaning procedures can be applied.

### *Step 1: Identify the type of stain*

Make sure you know the type of stain you are trying to remove to ensure you are using the most effective cleaning method.

### *Step 2: Select the correct cleaning method*

Once you have identified the stain, you can use the following cleaning methods to remove the stain.

### *Step 3: Follow the procedures*

Follow the written instructions as well as those shown on the labels of proprietary cleaners. A good tip is to clean a small test area first to ensure the cleaning method has worked to your satisfaction.

### *Step 4: Safety precautions are essential*

Make sure you read safety precautions thoroughly, wear protective clothing and store any chemicals safely.

### *Important*

*It is recommended that you do not clean your paved area with hoses or vacuum cleaners during the first three months of use. Cleaning should be by hand broom only during this period. This is to ensure that you do not remove the jointing sand before it has time to settle.*

*To maintain your paved area the joints must always be full. This prevents your pavers moving and chipping. Top up the joints with sand regularly.*

## Removing common stains from clay pavers

### *Dirt & Grime*

**Remedy:** Frequent sweeping and hosing will usually ensure a clean pavement. If this is not enough, washing with a detergent or proprietary cleaner may be required.

### *Efflorescence*

Efflorescence is a white powdery deposit that can be found on the surface of clay pavers, particularly after rain. It is generally not harmful and will weather away naturally with time, however it can be removed by brushing. Wetting the area usually dissolves efflorescence back into the pavers allowing it to reappear again when the pavers dry out.

**Remedy:** Remove with stiff brush when the paved area is dry.

### *Fungi, Moulds & Moss*

These are common, particularly in shady or damp parts of pavement. They will not damage your pavement, but may cause it to become slippery. Potted plants will usually provide the nutrients for fungi growth as fertilisers leach from pots during watering

**Remedy:** Common household bleaches such as White King and Exitmould will kill the growth. Simply spray the surface and brush off the residue. Clean the area with hot water and detergent. To prevent the problem occurring (or re-occurring), treat the surface with a solution of 15g of copper sulphate (blue crystals) per litre of water. Best carried out in late summer when the pavers are dry. The copper sulphate will remain in the pavers after the water has dried out and inhibit any growth. Copper sulphate is available from fertilizer suppliers or from your pharmacist.

### *Paint & Graffiti*

These can be difficult stains to remove, particularly if they have aged. Therefore, it is best to treat them when fresh.

### *Oil based paints or enamels*

**Remedy:** Burning off followed by scraping and brushing should be tried.

### *Fresh Aerosol Paint*

**Remedy:** A commercial paint remover should be used.

### *Dried paint*

**Remedy:** Flood the stained area for a few minutes with a paint remover of the methylene dichloride type. Scrub to loosen the paint film. Flush with water to wash away the loosened paint. Scrub with scouring powder until the stain is removed.

**Note:** Specialty propriety graffiti removal products are also available.

### *Wax Crayon*

**Remedy:** Wax crayon can usually be removed with acetone. It should be applied with a rag or tissue on smooth surfaces or with a small brush on textured surfaces. If it tends to spread, try using a poultice and brush off when dry.

### *Oil, Bitumen & Tar*

These stains usually require two treatments with a commercial emulsifying agent.

**Remedy:** Mix the emulsifier with kerosene to remove the stain. Clean the kerosene off with the emulsifier mixed only with water. With petrol or lubricating oil stains, free oil must be mopped up immediately with an absorbent material such as paper towel. Wiping it should be avoided as it tends to spread the stain and force the oil into the pavement.

The area should then be covered with a dry absorbent material such as diatomaceous earth, kaolin or whiting and the procedure repeated until there is no further improvement. Subsequently use detergent to clean up, and rinse well with clean water.

### *Food Stains & Tyre Marks*

**Remedy:** Scrub with a full-strength detergent and rinse well.

### *Chewing Gum*

**Remedy:** You will need to freeze each piece of chewing gum with a carbon dioxide aerosol (fire extinguisher) or ice. The chewing gum can then be chipped off with a scraper or chisel. Do not try to remove chewing gum while it is sticky.

**Warning:** Some of the poisons in fungicides may discolour the pavers. Check their effect on a small part before proceeding to clean the whole area. Pay attention to nearby garden plants or lawn, especially on the lower side of the paver area being treated.

## Removing common stains from concrete pavers

### *Moss, fungi and mould*

Remove with a dry brush, with or without the application of clean sharp sand or with high pressure water jetting with or without detergent. The application of fungicides may assist the problem from re-occurring, but please note that some fungicides may discolour pavers.

### *Chewing gum*

Scrape off excess gum and apply poultice of methylated spirit or freeze gum with ice, carbon dioxide aerosol, or dry ice then remove by scraping, brushing or high-pressure water jets.

### *Blood*

Apply liquid detergent for 15 to 20 minutes, scrub with hot water and rinse surface fully.

### *Tyre marks*

Scrub using a stiff brush with water, detergent and scouring powder or sharp sand.

### *Bitumen or tar*

Freeze with ice, carbon dioxide aerosol, or dry ice, remove excess by scraping, building bituminous emulsion scrub with scouring or abrasive powder and thoroughly wash with water.

### *Dry paint*

Scrape off excess paint, apply paint remover for 15 to 30 minutes, loosen with gentle scrubbing and absorb loosened material with paper or cloth. Do not rub. Repeat as necessary.

### *Hardened mortar*

Remove lumps of hardened mortar by chiseling, scraping or grinding. Wet the surface then apply dilute hydrochloric acid (1 part acid to 20 parts of water) and scrub vigorously for 2 to 3 minutes. Thoroughly hose down the area immediately after scrubbing.

**Warning:** The colour (pigmentation) of pavers is contained within the cement paste on the paver surface. An excessive use of abrasives or acids may remove or destroy this paste and, thereby, cause the surface colour and texture to be permanently altered. In certain cases, it may be preferable to replace the discoloured pavers rather than to attempt to clean them.

**For more information, please visit [www.cmaa.com.au](http://www.cmaa.com.au)**

## *Removing common stains from Natural Stone pavers*

Maintaining your Natural Stone will ensure its inherent beauty is preserved forever.

By following certain sealing and cleaning guidelines, you can rest assured that your Natural Stone paving will look stylish for the life of your home.

### *Sealing*

Austral Masonry recommends that all Natural Stone products supplied be sealed with a penetrating sealer. Sealing your Natural Stone is a way to protect it from staining and to make your day to day cleaning easier.

Most stone products can stain when they absorb liquids or moisture that are allowed to remain in contact with them for extended periods of time. If you are laying your natural Stone in an area where they are likely to come in contact with liquids, a sealer should be applied to help avoid future staining.

It is always recommended to seal a test area first and seek advice from your sealer company.

### *Cleaning*

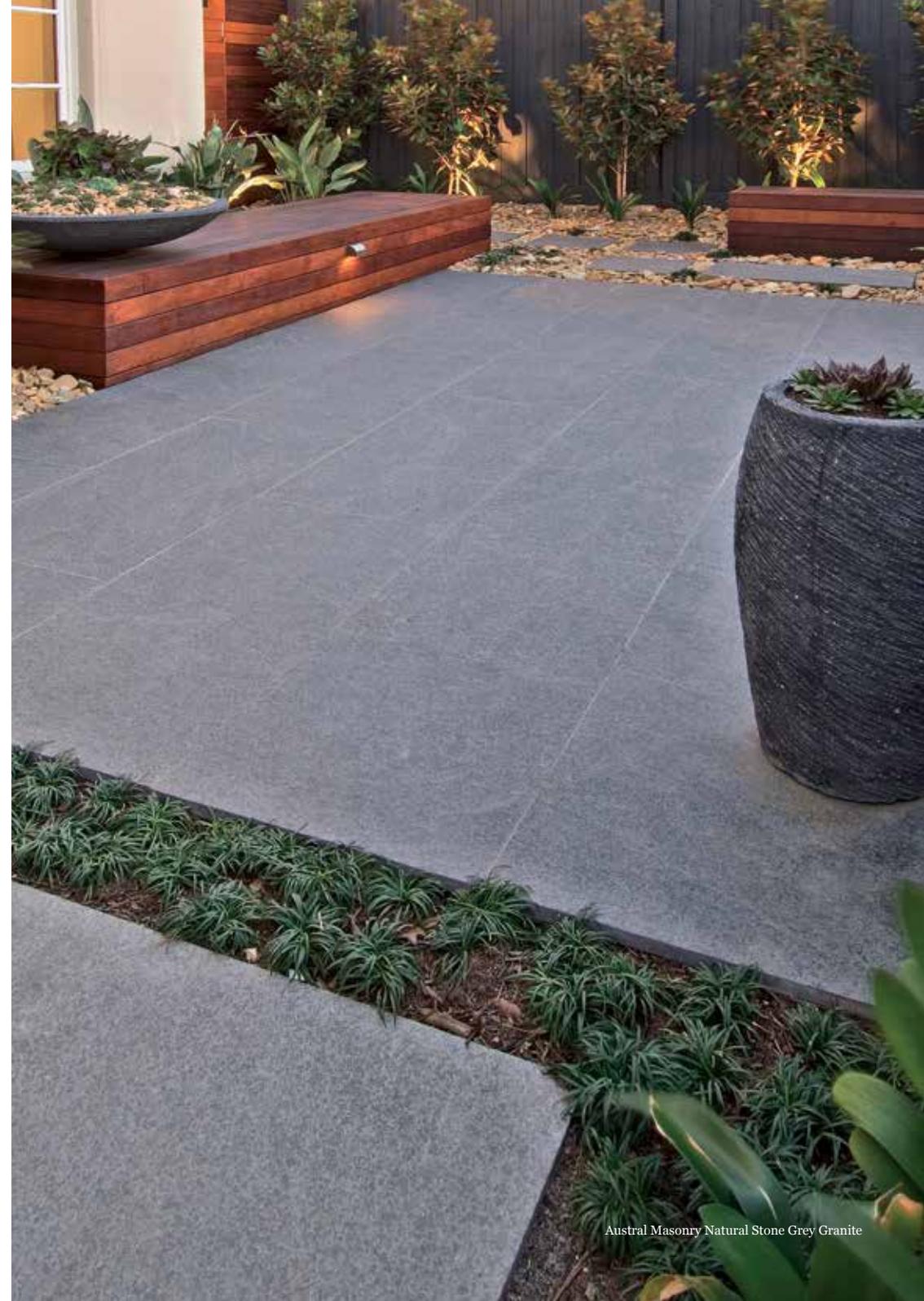
It is advised that you regularly sweep your Natural Stone to minimize the amount of dirt and debris which settles on the paving and to allow your Natural Stone to continue looking its best. Depending upon water restrictions, the use of high pressure water cleaners on an annual basis will assist in maintaining your Natural Stone in pristine condition.

#### ***Dirt Build Up***

In order to prevent staining or dirt build up, Natural Stone should be rinsed regularly with warm water and a non abrasive, clear, non acidic detergent. A pH neutral cleaner is recommended. Austral Masonry does not recommend the use of acids on stone products as this can cause damage.

#### ***Drinks***

All spills should be wiped up immediately. Soft drinks, coffee, tea and fruit juices contain mild acids which can etch and stain the stone quite rapidly. These should be cleaned off with a mild soap and warm water.





# RETAINING WALL BLOCKS

## *Preventative care is the first step*

Retaining walls can be constructed using specific retaining wall blocks or standard bricks. It is important to realise that the rear face of your retaining wall is just as important as the front face.

Retaining walls are to be backfilled with a clean, free draining material (eg blue metal), to prevent possible staining. When garden beds or soil come into direct contact with your retaining wall, the moisture present allows migration of soluble ground salts and can cause unsightly staining. It is therefore essential that care be taken when gardening or re-planting to ensure that the backfill remains in place to protect the wall.

## Removing common stains

### *Dirt & Grime*

**Remedy:** Frequent brushing and hosing will usually ensure a clean retaining wall. If this is not enough, washing with a detergent or proprietary cleaner may be required.

### *Efflorescence*

Efflorescence is a white powdery deposit that can be found on the surface of retaining wall blocks. It is generally not harmful and will weather away naturally with time, however it can be removed by brushing. Wetting the area usually dissolves efflorescence back into the blocks allowing it to reappear again when the blocks dry out. If efflorescence continually appears on the face of the wall, the membrane may be damaged.

**Remedy:** Remove with stiff brush when the wall is dry.

### *Fungi, Moulds & Moss*

These are common, particularly in shady or damp parts of the wall. They will not damage your retaining wall but may cause an unsightly appearance.

**Remedy:** Common household bleaches such as White King and Exitmould will kill the growth. Simply spray the surface and brush off the residue. Clean the area with hot water and detergent. To prevent the problem occurring (or re-occurring) your retaining wall can be sealed with a product such as Wet & Forget every 12 months. This will kill any algae spores and will stop algae and moss from growing.

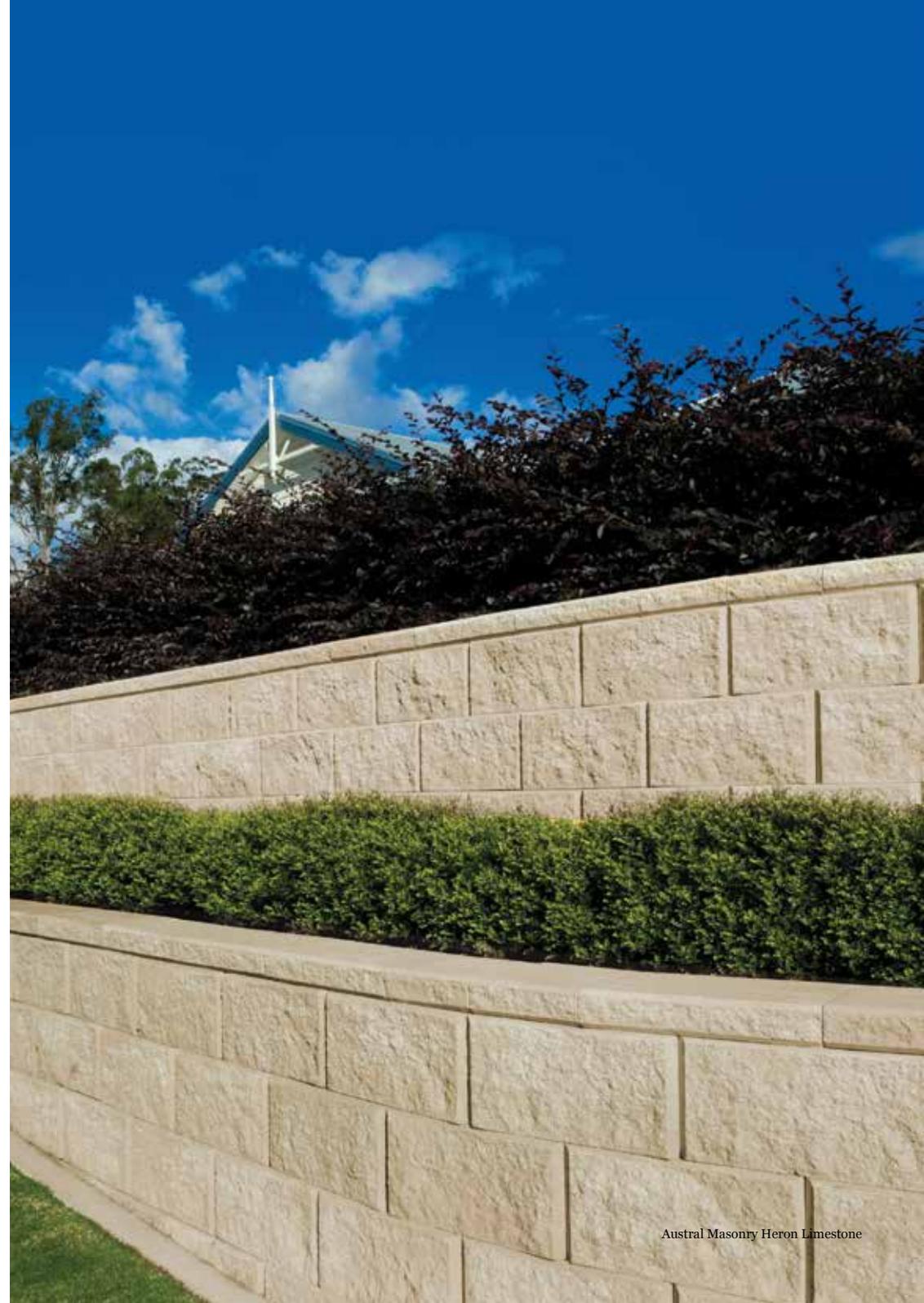
### *Timber (Tannin) Stains*

Oxalic acid is used for the removal of hardwood timber stains. 120 gm of oxalic acid with 4 litres of warm water is the recommended mix. Apply on a wet surface and rinse off. An alternative is to use chlorine solutions such as Sodium Hypochlorite (household bleach). These can be applied on to the dry surface. Repeat as necessary.

### *Rust Stains*

Phosphoric acid is used for the removal of iron bearing deposits. A maximum strength of one part acid to 10 parts water should be used. Use only as directed above.

**Note:** Phosphoric acid can change the colour of coloured blocks as it reacts with the iron oxides.



# GLOSSARY

## *of terms*

### *Commercial Emulsifier:*

is a degreasing solution that can be purchased from most hardware stores.

### *Sodium Hypochlorite:*

is commonly found in household bleaches.

### *Membrane:*

is a plastic or bituminous coating on the rear face of retaining walls. This provides a waterproof membrane that will prevent migration of soluble salts through the wall.

### *Damp Proof Membrane:*

is a physical barrier installed in brickwork to prevent moisture from moving upward or downwards through the masonry. Examples of damp proof membranes are polyethylene sheet, aluminium or bituminous coated metal.

### *Poultice:*

is a paste made of the cleaning compound and a fine filler such as whiting, kaolin or talc. The paste is applied to the area to be cleaned. As the cleaning compound does its work and the paste dries, the stain is drawn out and into the paste.

Using a spatula, apply the paste over the affected area to a thickness of 5-10mm. When it has dried, the paste, which now contains the stain, can be brushed or scraped off. The treated area should then be washed down with clean water.

### *Acetic Acid:*

commonly known as vinegar.

### *Glycerin:*

can be purchased from most chemists

### *Calcium Hypochlorite:*

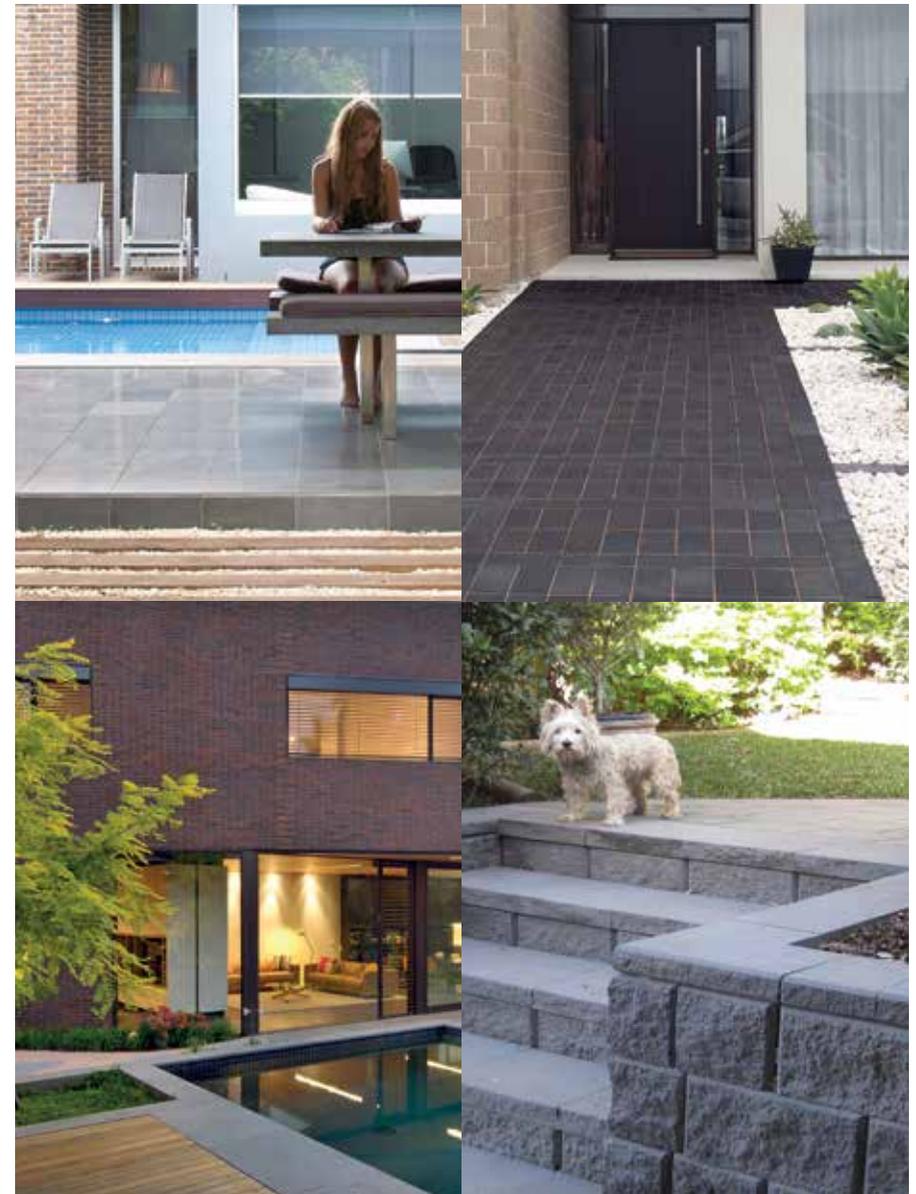
is found commonly in liquid pool chlorine.

### *Copper Sulphate:*

commonly known as blue crystals that are available in the gardening section of most hardware stores.

### *Hydrochloric Acid:*

is known as muriatic acid or spirit of salts. This is a corrosive poison so all precautions should be taken. Ensure you follow the instructions.



# BRICKWORKS

BUILDING PRODUCTS

[brickworksbindingproducts.com.au](http://brickworksbindingproducts.com.au)



## DESIGN STUDIOS

Sydney	Melbourne	Adelaide	Brisbane	Perth	Hobart
Ground Floor	490 Swan Street	Ground Floor	27 James Street	67 King Street	9 Franklin Wharf
50 Carrington Street	Richmond	70 Hindmarsh Square	Fortitude Valley	Perth	Hobart
Sydney	VIC 3121	Adelaide	QLD 4006	WA 6000	TAS 7000
NSW 2000		SA 5000			

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BOWRAL BRICKS®



The product images in our brochures give a general indication of colour for your preliminary selection.

We also recommend you view current product samples before making your final decision.

Partners In Design 06/2016