

Vitratec™ Brick Care

Helpful hints for cleaning Vitratec™ Bricks



STANDING UP TO THE PRESSURE

Helpful hints for cleaning Vitratec™ Bricks

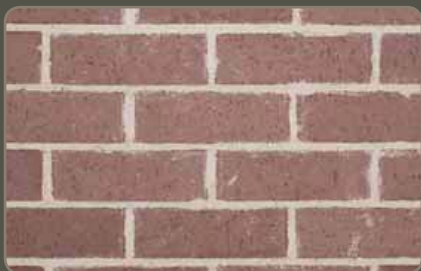


The smooth, rich colours of Austral Bricks™ popular slurry bricks are partly thanks to a manufacturing process that dates back hundreds of years.

“We call it Vitratec™,” says Cathy Inglis, Austral Bricks™ Technical and Research Manager, “which is our unique technology for applying a permanent coating to the surface of the brick as it is being extruded and prior to firing.”

Once fired at temperatures in excess of 1000°C, the Vitratec coating is permanently bonded to the brick body. “It’s a technology that is similar to the glazes applied to other ceramics such wall tiles,” she explains. “As we all know, these ceramic glazes are remarkably durable.”

However nothing is indestructible, especially with the high-pressure cleaners available today. “Care needs to be taken when cleaning ALL brickwork, and Vitratec coated bricks are no exception,” Inglis cautions.



BEFORE HIGH PRESSURE CLEANING

Urban One® Chocolate



CORRECT HIGH PRESSURE CLEANING:

<7000 kPa, >15°, >500 mm



AFTER HIGH PRESSURE CLEANING

Urban One® Chocolate



CLEAN AS YOU GO

Cleaning as you go is the best method for ensuring clean brickwork. The cleaner the bricklayer leaves the wall, the better the result. Mortar smears are best cleaned when fresh.

HIGH PRESSURE WATER

If used incorrectly, can be a real problem for ANY brick and will damage mortar joints. "Keep the pressure low – less than 7000 kPa or 1000 psi – and apply with a wide fan nozzle, not less than 15 degrees, at about 500 mm.

Test a small area first and keep the gun moving constantly," Cathy Inglis advises. Turbo heads are not recommended as there is a high potential for damage to bricks and mortar."

All brickwork should be treated with respect when cleaning," she concludes, "and Vitratec bricks such as our Urban One® series are no exception."

ACID CLEANING

Acid Cleaning is highly effective at removing mortar smears. (Hydrochloric acid dissolves the cement component.) Too much acid may cause the brick face to 'burn'.

IN SUMMARY

- > Vitratec bricks are as durable as conventional bricks
- > Clean as you go is the way to go
- > Take care when acid cleaning ANY bricks
- > Throttle back when pressure cleaning ALL brickwork: not more than 7000 kPa, no narrower than 15 degrees, no closer than 500 mm

NB: Urban One bricks are best laid with a full mortar joint or an ironed joint.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT BRICK CLEANING AND STAIN REMOVAL?

Download Brick Manual 3

Brick cleaning and maintenance from the Austral Bricks website

www.australbricks.com.au (Look in Information Sheets and Manuals under Technical Resources).

Cleaning Clay Masonry

Available from Think Brick Australia

www.thinkbrick.com.au (Click on Reference Library).



13 BRICK (13 2742)
www.australbricks.com.au

Head office

738-780 Wallgrove Rd, Horsley Park 2175
PO BOX 6550, Wetherill Park NSW 1851

Tel: 02 9830 7777

Fax: 02 9831 3771

Email: infosw@australbricks.com.au

NSW & ACT Display Centres

Horsley Park

738 -780 Wallgrove Road
Horsley Park NSW 2175

Canberra

7 Lithgow Street
Fyshwick ACT 2609

Newcastle

1b George Street
Mayfield

Punchbowl

62 Belmore Road
Punchbowl

Tuggerah

19 Bryant Drive
Tuggerah

Bowral

1 Kiama Street
Bowral

Illawarra

45 Princes Hwy
Albion Park Rail

Port Macquarie

42 Jindalee Rd
Port Macquarie

