

EFFLORESCENCE



Efflorescence typically occurs during the initial cure of a concrete product, when moisture within the product slowly migrates to the surface, bringing dissolved salts from within the concrete mixture. As the water evaporates, those salts are left on the surface, leaving chalky, white patches. In most cases, this problem is temporary – eventually the concrete product will dry out, the salt deposits will deplete, and the efflorescence will stop.

However, efflorescence is treatable! If it happens to you, allow your concrete product to dry out fully over a few weeks, giving every chance to bring as much efflorescence to the surface as possible. Then treat the area using either of the following methods:

1. Brush down affected areas with a soft brush or broom. Wash the surface with a solution of 1 part citric acid to 10 parts water (always add the acid to the water) using a soft brush or broom. Rinse down with water to remove all cleaning solution. Repeat if necessary.
2. Use a specialist product such as Crommelin Efflorescence Remover (available from Bunnings Warehouse). Make sure you follow the recommended concentration and method.

Avoid pressure washing or vigorously brushing as this may affect the surface colour of your concrete product, and void your warranty. It is also important to remember that coloured concrete products will very rarely have a strict uniform colour throughout.

Aussie Concrete Products produce Class 3 concrete sleepers (ref: AS3610.1-2010).

