

ARRISCRAFT • CARE

NOTES TO ASSIST IN THE CLEANING AND APPLICATION OF ARRISCRAFT MASONRY UNITS



DELIVERY, STORAGE AND HANDLING

Upon delivery, isolate masonry units from contact with the ground, vegetation and other material to prevent staining. Stack the masonry units on timbers or platforms at least 75 mm (3") above ground.

Lift skids with proper slings or forks of sufficient length to prevent damage.

Place polyethylene or other plastic film between wood and other finished surfaces of unpackaged units when stored for an extended period of time.

Cover stored material with a tarp if it will be exposed to weather for an extended period of time.

Depending on weather conditions, it may be advisable to remove the plastic stretch wrap from the skids to allow air to flow around the product. If this is done, the unwrapped skid will be less stable and subsequent handling of the skid of units must be done with great care.

Do not use salt to thaw ice formed on the surfaces of units.

PROTECTION

Protect products at all times from damage.

During the installation, protect corners and edges of the masonry. Protect the installation by means of wood or other sufficiently strong materials, secured in a manner that will not damage or stain the finished surfaces.

Carefully remove the protection only when the risk of damage is no longer present.

Arriscraft does not recommend applying water repellent sealers or graffiti-proofing sealers to its masonry products.

SITE-CUTTING STONE

When cutting Arriscraft products with a wet saw, always pre-wet the masonry units with clean water. A continuous source of fresh water to the saw is required. Immediately after saw cutting, wash cut stone with a stiff, fibre brush and thoroughly rinse with clean water.

Failure to follow this procedure may result in masonry units being stained by the cutting slurry.

MORTAR MIXES AND MIXING

Arriscraft International recommends a 1:1:6 Portland cement-lime mortar. The proportions by volume should be 1 part Portland cement, 1 part hydrated mason's lime (Type S) and 6 parts washed masonry sand.

Calibrate shovels of sand to a one cubic foot gauging box with each change in shift or mixing operator.

INSTALLATION

Careful adherence to proper masonry techniques is key to ensuring the performance of the completed masonry wall system.

Arriscraft products should be laid with consistent mortar joints for proper coursing.

Set stones in full bed of mortar with all vertical joints full. Avoid rocking the unit into place following initial contact with mortar, as this will detrimentally affect mortar-unit bond.

Under normal conditions, Arriscraft products do not require pre-wetting for successful wall construction. However, under hot, dry or windy weather conditions, it may be advantageous to use pre-dampened units. Damp units should be surface dry when they are being laid.

It is advisable to keep the masonry free from mortar smears as the work progresses. Some general precautions that can result in cleaner walls are:

- Protect the base of the wall from rain-splashed mud and mortar splatters. Use straw, sand, sawdust or other material spread out on the ground, extending approximately 1 metre (3 ft.) away from the wall;
- At the end of each workday turn any scaffold boards near the wall on their edge to prevent possible precipitation from splashing mortar and dirt directly onto the completed masonry;
- Cover walls at the end of each workday with protective, waterproof coverings to prevent mortar joint wash out and entry of water into completed masonry; and,
- Store masonry products on skids, off the ground and under protective coverings.

Prevent excessive mortar droppings by cutting off excess mortar with a trowel as the units are laid. Tool mortar joints when they are thumbprint hard. After tooling, any excess mortar and dust should be brushed from the masonry surface using a soft bristle brush. Avoid rubbing or pressing the mortar into the units.

CLEANING

PREPARING FOR CLEANING OPERATIONS

Prior to commencing construction, it is imperative to test-clean either a mock-up panel or samples of the Arriscraft masonry units in a manner similar to how the building will be cleaned.

Temperature, humidity and the method of cleaning will impact the cleaning operations and the ultimate look of the wall. Inspection of the test panel or samples should occur after a 3 to 7 day drying time. This test should be available for the architect to inspect and approve, then remain as the standard for the project.

Certain precautions must be taken during construction to minimize the potential for colour changes resulting from the cleaning process and to ensure a more consistent in-the-wall appearance. Refer to the Installation section above. Removing mortar droppings and smears from the masonry units as the work progresses will minimize cleaning requirements. Cleaning the constructed walls with water and non-acidic detergent will minimize any colour changes that can occur during cleaning.

Most acidic-based detergents and proprietary cleaners will darken the colour of the masonry units.

After approval of the test-cleaned material, it is imperative that the same cleaning procedure be used consistently throughout the cleaning of the building. Failure to follow these procedures can result in uneven or streaked colour.

GENERAL CLEANING GUIDELINES

Regardless of the cleaning method considered, it is essential to pre-wet the masonry surface before applying any type of cleaning solution. Pre-wetting the masonry units will minimize their absorption of the cleaning agent. It is equally important to keep the units wet during cleaning operations, and upon finishing to thoroughly rinse any cleaning solution from the wall surface. The key to successful cleaning is a continuous source of a sufficient volume of clean water throughout the cleaning operations.

Cleaning operations should commence at the top of the wall and work their way progressively down the wall surface. This will prevent dirt or stains from being washed onto areas that have already been cleaned.

Avoid applying the cleaning solution with pressurized spray systems as this will tend to drive the cleaning solution into the pores of the masonry. The use of medium-pressure (300-700psi) rinsing water is appropriate. High-pressure (>700psi) methods should be avoided for cleaning manufactures masonry products as it may result in a texture change. High-pressure methods may also damage the mortar joints.

CLEANING WITH ACID-BASED OR PROPRIETARY MASONRY CLEANERS

The colour of the Arriscraft Masonry Units may change with the application of either acid-based solutions or most proprietary masonry detergents. Refer to the test-cleaned material to determine the effect of the selected cleaning method on the colour of the masonry.

If required, properly mask or otherwise protect metal, glass, wood and other surfaces from damage by exposure to the cleaning solution.

Schedule cleaning operations no sooner than 7 days but not later than 28 days after the masonry has been completed.

Remove larger mortar droppings by hand with wooden paddles or a non-metallic scraper.

Thoroughly pre-soak the area of wall to be cleaned.

Dilute the cleaning agent with clean water in controlled proportions according to that approved on the site panel. Apply the solution to the presoaked area of wall with a soft bristled washing brush or low pressure (max. 40-50psi) acid-resistant sprayer.

Thoroughly rinse any cleaning solution and residue from the wall surface.