

Tuscan Stoneworx

Tuscan Cast Stone Care & Maintenance

A. Cleaning & Maintenance

1. Tuscan Cast Stone has been developed to be a relatively maintenance-free product; however, the following recommendations and guidelines should be followed.
 - a. **Avoid Impacts**
 1. Care should be taken to protect Tuscan Cast Stone from impacts as it can be chipped, especially at corners and edges. If chips do occur, Tuscan Cast Stone is colored throughout the stone matrix. As such, Tuscan Cast Stone closely replicates the natural beauty of cut stone when chipped. Chips or cracks can be patched using Tuscan Cast Stone Mix.
 - b. **Avoid the use of Salt and other Deicers**
 1. In winter, use of any deicing compound, even if it is not chemically reactive with Tuscan Cast Stone, can cause spalling and pop-outs by subjecting the Tuscan Cast Stone to the deleterious effects of naturally occurring freeze-thaw cycles. Even deicers that state that the material will not harm cementitious products, or cast stone, may still cause damage by creating an elevated exposure to freeze-thaw cycles.
 2. Tuscan Cast Stone, less than one-year old, is especially susceptible to salt and deicer type of damage and may be affected with just one application. Tuscan Sealer *may* prevent or significantly reduce the amount of damage that occurs from the use of deicers. Even with Tuscan Sealer applied, deicer use should be kept to a minimum and any deicer residue left on the cast stone or concrete should be immediately removed or cleaned off (see cleaning instructions below) the cast stone once the ice has melted.
 3. When shoveling, sweeping, plowing, or snow-blowing deicer contaminated snow, efforts should be made *not* to throw the contaminated snow so that it lands on or against any Tuscan Cast Stone (such as wall caps or trim) as this could lead to spalling of those items.
 4. Since the effectiveness of most sealers will wear off over time, they may need to be reapplied periodically. **NOTE:** Refer to the sealer manufacturers recommendations for re-application frequency and application instructions.
 - c. **Protect Cast Stone from Extreme Heat**
 1. Exposure to extreme heat may cause damage to Tuscan Cast Stone. Using a torch to melt ice or welding against Tuscan Cast Stone may cause the Tuscan Cast Stone to crack or fracture.
 - d. **Cleaning Tuscan Cast Stone Surfaces**
 1. When cleaning Tuscan Cast Stone, the following will provide some guidance for selecting the least abrasive or damaging method. The methods described below have proven to have merit in the removal of stains from Tuscan Cast Stone. For stain removal, it is best to minimize abrading of the Tuscan Cast Stone finish to promote the long-standing beauty, consistency, and integrity of the Tuscan Cast Stone.
 - a. **Primary recommended cleaning method (least abrasive)** - Should the Tuscan Cast Stone become dirty, it *may* be lightly scrubbed with a soft bristle fiber brush, using a mild detergent and water followed by a thorough rinse with clean running water. This cleaning process is the least abrasive method to cleaning Tuscan Cast Stone.
 - b. **Alternative cleaning methods (progressively more abrasive)** - The method selected for cleaning Tuscan Cast Stone depends on the purpose of the cleaning and the extent of the cleaning work to be done. It may entail use of water with mild detergent and soft bristle brush as described above, or something much more potentially damaging such as a pressure washer, grit or sand blasting, chemical cleaning, flame cleaning, or use of special purpose mechanical power cleaning tools, each of which will likely cause permanent damage to the Tuscan Cast Stone. **Note:** Before cleaning, thoroughly wet down all surrounding masonry and concrete surfaces to prevent the dirty wash-down water from being absorbed into it. When cleaning has been completed, wash down entire work area to ensure no residual dirty or contaminated rinse water remains. No acids or prepared cleaners should be used without the approval of Tuscan Stoneworx.

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2. **Efflorescence Removal.** Efflorescence is a crystalline deposit, usually white, that may develop on the surface of an unsealed part. Efflorescence is soluble salts that dissolved in water moving through concrete and then precipitated onto the surface. Efflorescence is easily removed from Tuscan Cast Stone parts by washing with diluted acid solutions. Vinegar diluted with water 2:1, Muriatic acid diluted with water 9:1 or commercially available acidic cleaners may be used. The following procedure is recommended.
- Pre-wet the surface with water.
 - Apply a solution of one (1) part Sure Klean No. 600 (www.prosoco.com) mixed with twenty (20) parts water. Efflorescence cleaners from other companies may also be used. The surface will "fizz" indicating that the salts are being dissolved by the acid solution. Light scrubbing with a soft bristle brush may be necessary to remove all the efflorescence.
 - Rinse thoroughly with water.
 - Allow the treated area to dry thoroughly prior to application of Tuscan Flat Exterior Sealer.

Caution: Before deciding on a particular cleaning method, clean a relatively small, inconspicuous area to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the chosen method and the appearance and condition of the surface after its treatment.

Note: As always, Tuscan Stoneworx maintains the best method for maintaining the long-standing beauty, consistency, and integrity of Tuscan Cast Stone products from dirt, grit, grime, and efflorescence is the proper application of our Tuscan Flat Exterior Sealer. Care should be taken to follow the proper recommendations for application, care and maintenance.

DISCLAIMER

The architecture, engineering and design of any project using Tuscan Cast Stone parts are the responsibility of the project's design professional. All systems must comply with state and local building codes and standards. Tuscan Stoneworx disclaims any liability for the architecture, design, engineering or workmanship of any project using Tuscan Cast Stone parts. Information contained in this specification conforms to standard detail and product recommendations for the installation of the Tuscan Stoneworx products as of the date of publication of this document and is presented in good faith. Tuscan Stoneworx USA, LLC assumes no liability, expressed or implied, as to the architecture, engineering or workmanship of any project. To insure that you are using the latest, most complete information, contact Tuscan Stoneworx at:

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