



Information Sheet

Weathering & Efflorescence

Weathering	Efflorescence
<p>Cast stone weathers in a very similar way to natural stone. Over time, the stone will take on a darker look and may even grow moss or lichen. The process is natural but can be delayed by cleaning if required. See the information sheet “Caring for Stones” for a guide to cleaning.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Weathered stone</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Non-weathered stone</p> </div> </div>	<p>“Efflorescence in no way affects the structural integrity of the Cast Stone.” UKCSA (<i>Summer 2000 Technical Manual for Cast Stone p18 s.7.5.1</i>)</p> <p>Efflorescence is not common in Cast Stone. However, it can occur in any product that incorporates cement.</p> <p>It occurs naturally and is a temporary phenomenon. Mortar is particularly prone to efflorescence and mostly it is this that contaminates cast stone.</p> <p>It is formed by soluble salts in the cement migrating to the surface, usually after rain. When the stone is wet, efflorescence is likely to be invisible. However, as the stone dries, small white crystals of a powdery nature may appear.</p> <p>Efflorescence will disappear naturally if left and it is better to leave it if possible. If necessary though, the following guidelines may help to clean it off. <i>Note: cleaning the stone is not a guarantee that the efflorescence will never return.</i></p> <p>Carefully and thoroughly protect all surrounding material and any plants etc. below the affected area. Thoroughly wet the surface with clean water. Apply a proprietary wash (e.g. a brick acid). There will be some frothing on the stone surface as the efflorescence dissipates. Once the frothing has stopped and the efflorescence gone, (a few minutes at most) thoroughly wash the whole surface again with clean running water. Always ensure any surfaces that do not need treatment are carefully covered before starting the process. One treatment should be enough, but the process may be repeated if necessary.</p> <p>Please Note: an acid wash will change the appearance of the stone, always trial a test piece first.</p>