

Beautiful forever

A Guideline On Maintaining Your Home





YOUR HOME, A PLACE THAT'S UNIQUELY YOU.

It reflects your lifestyle, your personality, your taste and the level of care you devote to maintaining its appearance.

That's why building your home with bricks, or incorporating clay pavers or retaining wall blocks into your landscaping, was a smart choice.

These are not only the sturdiest but also the easiest and most economical building materials of all to maintain.

Austral Bricks products are known for their timelessness of design as well as their unparalleled quality, ensuring you of a beautiful home, year after year after year.

However, there are a few essentials you will need to know in order to maintain the appearance of your home as the years go by.

To assist you with this, it is our pleasure to provide you with this complementary guide to keeping your home looking beautiful forever.

Yours Sincerely



Lindsay Partridge
Managing Director



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Bowral Murray Grey



Elements Zinc

PREVENTATIVE CARE IS THE FIRST STEP

Gardens add natural beauty to any home, however it is essential that garden beds, paved, concreted or tiled areas are below the level of the installed damp proof membrane and do not cover the weep holes in your brickwork.

A weep hole is simply a drain hole through a wall which is commonly the height of a brick and is normally the first or second brick course above ground level.

Building any form of structure over your weep holes can allow termites to infiltrate your barrier or restrict the drainage of moisture that penetrates your brickwork.

CLEANING YOUR BRICKWORK

From time to time unforeseen spillages and staining can make its way onto your brickwork. The removal of stains is not always easy, however by following the guidelines below, keeping your brickwork clean need not be a problem.

STEP 1: IDENTIFY THE TYPE OF STAIN.

Make sure you know the type of stain you are trying to remove to ensure you are using the most effective cleaning method.

BRICKS

BRICKS CARE GUIDELINE



STEP 2: SELECT THE CORRECT CLEANING METHOD.

Once you have identified the stain, you can use the following cleaning methods to remove the stain.

STEP 3: FOLLOW THE PROCEDURES.

Follow the written instructions as well as those shown on the labels of proprietary cleaners. A good tip is to clean a small test area first to ensure the cleaning method has worked to your satisfaction.

STEP 4: SAFETY PRECAUTIONS ARE ESSENTIAL.

Make sure you read safety precautions thoroughly, wear

protective clothing and store any chemicals safely.

Note: Hydrochloric Acid is commonly used to clean mortar stains from brickwork when it is initially laid. It does not need to be used at any other time during the life of your brickwork. If used incorrectly it can cause unsightly staining that is extremely difficult to remove.

REMOVING COMMON STAINS

EFFLORESCENCE:

Efflorescence is a white powdery deposit found on the surface of brickwork. It is generally not harmful and

will weather away with time. The best way to remove efflorescence is to brush it off when the brickwork is dry. Wetting the wall usually dissolves efflorescence back into the brickwork allowing it to reappear again when the wall dries out.

Remedy: Remove with stiff brush when the wall is dry.

ADHESIVE TAPE

Remedy: Wipe with petrol, lighter fluid or paint stripper.

BLOOD

Remedy: Wet the stain with water then cover it with an even layer of sodium peroxide powder. Sprinkle with water or cover with a water soaked bandage and leave for five minutes. Scrub vigorously with clean water and then neutralise using a five percent solution of acetic acid (vinegar) and rinse with water at end of treatment.

COFFEE STAINS

Remedy: Apply a cloth that has been saturated in a solution of one part glycerin to four parts water. When the stain is drawn into the cloth, rinse with water.

EGG

Remedy: Wipe the stained area with acetone until the stain is removed.

INK & BIRO

Different inks require different treatments.

Remedy: Wipe with white spirits, acetone or apply an acetone poultice to help draw out the stain.

SOOT AND SMOKE

Remedy: Minor stains can be removed with sugar soap. Mix 500g sugar soap with 2 litres hot water and apply liberally with a brush. After stains disappear, scrub with a mixture of detergent and a household scouring

powder containing sodium hypochlorite. A scouring cleanser such as Ajax can be used to remove stubborn stains by scrubbing. Wash off with detergent and water. Alternatively, bleach the area using sodium hypochlorite or calcium hypochlorite solution in a poultice.

MARKER PENS

Remedy: Wipe off with acetone or a poultice of acetone and talc.

OIL, GREASE & ANIMAL FATS

Remedy: Apply an engine degreaser emulsifier or a strong detergent such as Amway LOC, then rinse well.

ORGANIC GROWTHS / FUNGUS, MOULD & MOSS

Porous masonry provides a benign environment for organic growth when it is continuously moist, especially in light but shady conditions and when there are plenty of nutrients available. You will need to check downpipes, flashings etc for ways to stop continuous moist conditions. If brickwork dries, organic growth should not occur.

Remedy: Treat with diluted sodium hypochlorite bleach with a small amount of liquid detergent. Liquid chlorine, Exitmould and White King are suitable for this application. Clean with hot water and detergent. Repeat as necessary.

SOILS

Remedy: Mix a strong detergent solution of one cup detergent to five litres hot water. Scrub and rinse well

PAINT AND GRAFFITI

These can be difficult stains to remove, particularly if they have aged. Therefore, it is best to treat them when fresh.

BRICKS

BRICKS CARE GUIDELINE

Wax Crayon

Remedy: Wax crayon can usually be removed with acetone. It should be applied with a rag or tissue on smooth surfaces or with a small brush on textured surfaces. If it tends to spread, try using a poultice and brush off when dry.

Acrylic Paint

Remedy: A commercial paint remover should be used.

Oil based paints or enamels

Remedy: Burn off and follow with scraping and wire brushing.

Fresh Aerosol Paint

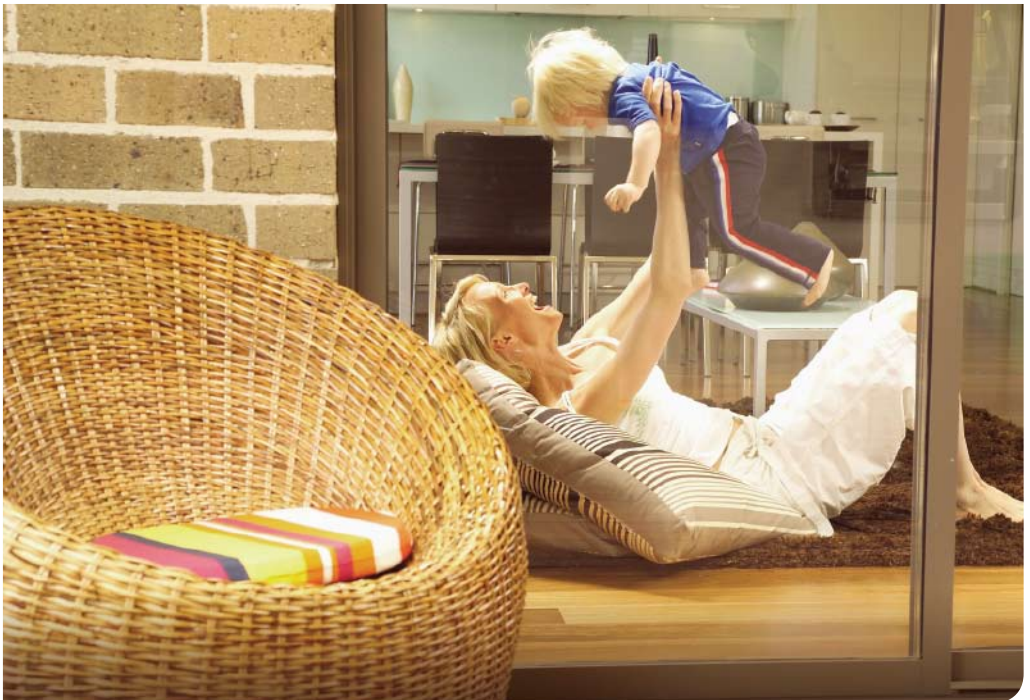
Remedy: A commercial paint remover should be used

Dried paint

Remedy: Flood the stained area for a few minutes with a paint remover of the methylene dichloride type. Scrub to loosen the paint film. Flush with water to wash away the loosened paint. Scrub with scouring powder until the stain is removed. Flush with water.

Note: Specialty propriety graffiti removal products are also available.

It is important to remember, that should a stain be too large or too difficult to remove, then the services of a professional cleaner should be sought.





Riviera Freedom Modena



Riviera Monte Carlo (main), Naples (border)

PREVENTATIVE CARE IS THE FIRST STEP

Maintaining your paved area will ensure that it holds its good looks and natural appeal forever, ensuring added resale value to your home.

Cleaning methods and guidelines are provided in this booklet, however should you be in the process of wanting to do some paving yourself, Austral Bricks can provide you with information on our paving products and a free copy of Austral Bricks How To Lay Pavers guide.

CLEANING YOUR PAVED AREA

All pavements are subject to spillages, soiling and a

build up of dirt and grime over time. By following some of the outlined guidelines and cleaning procedures, maintaining the good look of your Austral Bricks pavers need not be a problem. Where possible, wash your paved area with clean water and a detergent. If this fails to bring your area to an acceptable level of cleanliness, then the following cleaning procedures can be applied

STEP 1: IDENTIFY THE TYPE OF STAIN

Make sure you know the type of stain you are trying to remove to ensure you are using the most effective cleaning method.

PAVERS

PAVER CARE GUIDELINE



STEP 2: SELECT THE CORRECT CLEANING METHOD

Once you have identified the stain, you can use the following cleaning methods to remove the stain.

STEP 3: FOLLOW THE PROCEDURES.

Follow the written instructions as well as those shown on the labels of proprietary cleaners. A good tip is to clean a small test area first to ensure the cleaning method has worked to your satisfaction.

STEP 4: SAFETY PRECAUTIONS ARE ESSENTIAL

Make sure you read safety precautions thoroughly, wear protective clothing and store any chemicals safely.

IMPORTANT

It is recommended that you do not clean your paved area with hoses or vacuum cleaners during the first 3 months of use. Cleaning should be by hand broom only during this period. This is to ensure that you do not remove the jointing sand before it has time to settle.

To maintain your paved area the joints must always be full. This prevents your pavers moving and chipping. Top up the joints with sand regularly.

REMOVING COMMON STAINS

DIRT AND GRIME

Remedy: Frequent sweeping and hosing will usually ensure a clean pavement. If this is not enough, washing with a detergent or proprietary cleaner may be required.

EFFLORESCENCE

Efflorescence is a white powdery deposit that can be found on the surface of clay pavers, particularly after rain. It is generally not harmful and will weather away naturally with time, however it can be removed by brushing. Wetting the area usually dissolves efflorescence back into the pavers allowing it to reappear again when the pavers dry out.

Remedy: Remove with stiff brush when the paved area is dry.

FUNGI, MOULDS AND MOSS

These are common, particularly in shady or damp parts of pavement. They will not damage your pavement, but may cause it to become slippery. Potted plants will usually provide the nutrients for fungi growth as fertilisers leach from pots during watering

Remedy: Common household bleaches such as White King and Exitmould will kill the growth. Simply spray the surface and brush off the residue. Clean the area with hot water and detergent. To prevent the problem occurring (or re-occurring), treat the surface with a solution of 15g of copper sulphate (blue crystals) per litre of water. Best carried out in late summer when the pavers are dry. The copper sulphate will remain in the pavers after the water has dried out and inhibit any growth. Copper sulphate is available from fertilizer suppliers or from your pharmacist.

PAINT AND GRAFFITI

These can be difficult stains to remove, particularly if they have aged. Therefore, it is best to treat them when fresh.

Oil based paints or enamels

Remedy: Burning off followed by scraping and brushing should be tried.

Fresh Aerosol Paint

Remedy: A commercial paint remover should be used.

Dried paint

Remedy: Flood the stained area for a few minutes with a paint remover of the methylene dichloride type. Scrub to loosen the paint film. Flush with water to wash away the loosened paint. Scrub with scouring powder until the stain is removed.

Note: Specialty propriety graffiti removal products are also available.

Wax Crayon

Remedy: Wax crayon can usually be removed with acetone. It should be applied with a rag or tissue on smooth surfaces or with a small brush on textured surfaces. If it tends to spread, try using a poultice and brush off when dry.

OIL, BITUMEN AND TAR.

These stains usually require two treatments with a commercial emulsifying agent.

Remedy: Mix the emulsifier with kerosene to remove the stain. Clean the kerosene off with the emulsifier mixed only with water. With petrol or lubricating oil stains, free oil must be mopped up immediately with an absorbent material such as paper towel. Wiping it should be avoided as it tends to spread the stain and force the oil into the pavement.

PAVERS

PAVER CARE GUIDELINE

The area should then be covered with a dry absorbent material such as diatomaceous earth, kaolin or whiting and the procedure repeated until there is no further improvement. Subsequently use detergent to clean up, and rinse well with clean water.

FOOD STAINS AND TYRE MARKS

Remedy: Scrub with a full-strength detergent and rinse well.

CHEWING GUM

Remedy: You will need to freeze each piece of chewing gum with a carbon dioxide aerosol (fire

extinguisher) or ice. The chewing gum can then be chipped off with a scraper or chisel. Do not try to remove chewing gum while it is sticky.

Warning: Some of the poisons in fungicides may discolour the pavers. Check their effect on a small part before proceeding to clean the whole area. Pay attention to nearby garden plants or lawn, especially on the lower side of the paver area being treated.



Riviera Monte Carlo 450 x 225mm



Riviera Alassio 300 x 300mm



Riviera Freedom Modena 300 x 300mm



Tasman Brisbane Blend



Norfolk Brisbane Blend

Retaining walls can be constructed using specific retaining wall blocks such as GB Retaining Wall Blocks or standard bricks. It is important to realise that the rear face of your retaining wall is just as important as the front face.

Retaining walls are to be backfilled with a clean, free draining material (eg blue metal), to prevent possible staining. When garden beds or soil come into direct contact with your retaining wall, the moisture present allows migration of soluble ground salts and can cause unsightly staining. It is therefore essential that care be taken when gardening or re-planting to ensure that the backfill remains in place to protect the wall.

REMOVING COMMON STAINS

DIRT AND GRIME

Remedy: Frequent brushing and hosing will usually ensure a clean retaining wall. If this is not enough, washing with a detergent or proprietary cleaner may be required.

EFFLORESCENCE

Efflorescence is a white powdery deposit that can be found on the surface of retaining wall blocks. It is generally not harmful and will weather away naturally with time, however it can be removed by brushing. Wetting the area usually dissolves efflorescence back into the blocks allowing it to reappear again when the blocks dry out. If efflorescence continually appears on the face of the wall,

RETAINING WALL BLOCKS

RETAINING WALL BLOCK CARE GUIDELINE



the membrane may be damaged.

Remedy: Remove with stiff brush when the wall is dry.

FUNGI, MOULDS AND MOSS

These are common, particularly in shady or damp parts of the wall. They will not damage your retaining wall but may cause an unsightly appearance.

Remedy: Common household bleaches such as White King and Exitmould will kill the growth. Simply spray the surface and brush off the residue. Clean the area with hot water and detergent. To prevent the problem occurring (or re-occurring) your retaining wall can be sealed with a product such as Wet & Forget every 12 months. This will kill any algae spores and will stop algae and moss from growing.

TIMBER (TANNIN) STAINS

Oxalic acid is used for the removal of hardwood timber stains. 120 gm of oxalic acid with 4 litres of warm water is the recommended mix. Apply on a wet surface and rinse off. An alternative is to use chlorine solutions such as Sodium Hypochlorite (household bleach). These can be applied on to the dry surface. Repeat as necessary.

RUST STAINS

Phosphoric acid is used for the removal of ironbearing deposits. A maximum strength of one part acid to 10 parts water should be used. Use only as directed above. Note that phosphoric acid can change the colour of coloured blocks as it reacts with the iron oxides.



Grande Plata



Appian Brezza Moonlit

Eureka Tiles Australia is a member of the Brickworks group of companies and is Australia's largest manufacturer of glazed and unglazed ceramic floor tiles. Information on the products offered by Eureka Tiles Australia can be obtained from Austral or Eureka Tiles direct.

FLOOR TILES MAINTENANCE

As with the previous paver section, maintaining your tiled area can be as simple as sweeping, vacuuming or an occasional mopping. Glazed tiles in particular are easy to maintain in this method and rarely require more detailed

cleaning. However, unglazed tiles (and some glazed tiles with grip particles) will require detailed stain removal more frequently due to the ability of the surface to retain more liquids.

It should be noted here that although unglazed tiles can stain, there is virtually nothing which will permanently damage them, unlike, say, carpet, vinyl, marble, etc. Tiles are chemically stable and will not be corroded or otherwise permanently affected by staining or most cleaning agents. Thus, if the stain is removed, tiles should look like new again.

FLOOR TILES

FLOOR TILES CARE GUIDELINE



CLEANING PRECAUTIONS

1: TEST AREA

Always clean a small test area first to ensure there is no adverse chemical reaction and that the area is cleaned to your satisfaction. Be sure to wait until the area is dry as many stains can be disguised when wet.

2: CONSIDER THE GROUT

While tiles are quite resilient and not permanently damaged, cement based grouts are more difficult to clean and prone to attack by more common chemicals. Therefore, if the stains only consist of spots on the tiles,

try to avoid letting the cleaning agents contact the grout. If the grout has to be cleaned as well, include a small section in your initial test area.

3: PROTECT SURROUNDING AREAS

Like grout, other surrounding materials may be adversely affected by cleaning agents which do not damage tiles. Therefore, it may be necessary to protect painted areas, steel, adjacent carpet, timber, concrete, polished stone, etc. Even strong acid vapour can cause damage to things like stereo speakers! Phosphoric acids are extremely corrosive to aluminium and caution must be used especially around aluminium door frames and the like.

4: AVOID WIRE BRUSHES

Never use wire brushes, steel wool or steel pads in any cleaning operations as fine pieces of metal left on the surface can cause rust marks, particularly on the grout.

REMOVING COMMON STAINS

DIRT AND GRIME

Remedy: This can be easily removed with a broom or vacuum cleaner (and should be removed regularly to prevent slipping and to prevent sand abrading soft glazed tiles). When mopping is required, use a neutral cleaner.

EFFLORESCENCE

Efflorescence is aggravated by excessively damp conditions following installation or prolonged delay in drying out and may be persistent if it is due to rising moisture where damp preventing construction is inadequate. Efflorescence should be removed as soon as possible after its occurrence or reoccurrence. Prevention is certainly the best cure for efflorescence. Ensure washed river sand is used in mortars and grouts, and waterproof membranes are used where there is likely to be an ongoing source of water such as seepage. Sealers should not be used as a treatment for efflorescence as they will rarely eliminate the source of water totally and then run the risk of trapping any subsequent efflorescence under the sealer, thereby turning it milky and making it impossible to remove.

Remedy: Remove with a dry, stiff broom or brush.

OIL AND GREASE

Remedy: On glazed tiles, oil and grease should wipe off. If this is difficult, for example in the case of slip resistant glazes, an all-purpose spray or highly alkaline detergent in warm to hot water may be needed. With unglazed

tiles, the above procedures could be tried on small or fresh oil stains, but on larger or thick stains, including dirty engine oil, degreasing oil will probably be required. This can be obtained as a liquid or a spray from service stations and some supermarkets. The manufacturers' instructions should be followed carefully. Two or more applications may be necessary. Excess liquid oil should be removed first by mopping, not wiping, with absorbent paper towels.

Excess solid grease should be scraped off. If the degreaser does not remove all the traces of oil and grease, scrubbing with a hard nylon brush and an abrasive cleaner such as Gumption, Vim or Ajax might be necessary as well. Poultice treatments using talc, fullers earth or whiting mixed with mineral turps, may be effective.

FUNGI, MOULDS AND MOSS

Fungi, moulds, moss and lichens are common, particularly in shady or damp parts of tiling. They sometimes appear as localised dark stains or patches of green, giving a dirty and unsightly appearance. They will not damage the tiles but may cause them to become slippery.

Remedy: Common household bleaches such as White King and Exitmould will kill the growth. Simply spray the surface and brush off the residue. Clean the area with hot water and detergent. To prevent the problem occurring (or re-occurring), treat the surface with a solution of 15g of copper sulphate (blue crystals) per litre of water. Best carried out in late summer when the tiles are dry. The copper sulphate will remain in the tiles after the water has dried out and inhibit any growth. Copper sulphate is available from fertilizer suppliers or from your pharmacist.

FLOOR TILES

FLOOR TILES CARE GUIDELINE

Warning: Some of the poisons in fungicides may discolour the tiling. Check their effect on a small part before proceeding to clean the whole area. Pay attention to nearby garden plants or lawn, especially on the lower side of the tiled area being treated.

PAINT AND GRAFFITI

These can be difficult stains to remove, particularly if they have aged. Therefore, it is best to treat them when fresh.

Oil based paints or enamels

Remedy: Burning off followed by scraping and brushing should be tried.

Dried paint

Remedy: Flood the stained area for a few minutes with a paint remover of the methylene dichloride type. Scrub to loosen the paint film. Flush with water to wash away the loosened paint. Scrub with scouring powder until the stain is removed.

Fresh Aerosol Paint

Remedy: A commercial paint remover should be used.

Wax Crayon

Remedy: Wax crayon can usually be removed with acetone. It should be applied with a rag or tissue on smooth surfaces or with a small brush on textured surfaces. If it tends to spread, try using a poultice and brush off when dry.

Note: Specialty propriety Graffiti removal products are also available.

OTHER STAINS

There are numerous other staining agents such as blood, ink, egg, coffee and numerous other beverages and foodstuffs, which could come in contact with tiling and require spot cleaning. Abrasive cleaners such as Gumption, etc. should be tried using a plastic scourer. Make sure that you rinse off well afterwards.



Naturals 300 Yulara

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

COMMERCIAL EMULSIFIER: is a degreasing solution that can be purchased from most hardware stores.

SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE: is commonly found in bleaches such as White King and Exitmould.

MEMBRANE: is a plastic or bituminous coating on the rear face of retaining walls. This provides a waterproof membrane that will prevent migration of soluble salts through the wall.

DAMP PROOF MEMBRANE: is a physical barrier installed in brickwork to prevent moisture from moving upward or downwards through the masonry. Examples of damp proof membranes are polyethylene sheet, aluminium or bituminous coated metal.

POULTICE: is a paste made of the cleaning compound and a fine filler such as whiting, kaolin or talc. The paste is applied to the area to be cleaned. As the cleaning compound does its work and the paste dries, the stain is drawn out and into the paste.

Using a spatula, apply the paste over the affected area to a thickness of 5-10mm. When it has dried, the paste, which now contains the stain, can be brushed or scraped off. The treated area should then be washed down with clean water.

ACETIC ACID: commonly known as vinegar.

GLYCERIN: can be purchased from most chemists

CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE: is found commonly in liquid pool chlorine.

COPPER SULPHATE: commonly known as blue crystals that are available in the gardening section of most hardware stores.

HYDROCHLORIC ACID: is known as muretic acid or spirit of salts. This is a corrosive poison so all precautions should be taken. Ensure you follow the instructions.



CONTACT DETAILS

Contact an Austral Bricks sales office on **13-BRIC | 13-2742**

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Port Macquarie . 42 Jindalee Rd

Bowral . 1 Kiama Street

Illawarra . 45 Princes Hwy, Albion Park Rail

Punchbowl . 62 Belmore Road

Canberra . 7 Lithgow St, Fyshwick

Newcastle . 1b George Street, Mayfield East

Tuggerah . 19 Bryant Drive

QUEENSLAND

Rosedale . 105 Gardner Road

Riverview . 103 Riverview Road

Sunshine Coast . Cnr Erang Street and

Nicklin Way, Currumbindi

Gold Coast . 3 Central Dr, Andrews

Toowoomba . 29 Mort St

Townsville . Lot 2 Blakey St, Garbutt

VICTORIA

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Geelong . 474-478 Torquay Road

(Cnr Essington St), Grovedale

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Golden Grove . Greenwith Road

Design Centre . 392 South Road, Richmond

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Armadale . 245 South Western Highway

Bellevue . Military Road

Bunbury . Lot 5 Picton Road (Cnr Forest Ave)

Busselton . 38 Bussell Hwy

Joondalup . 18 Ascari Lane

Malaga . 10 Bonner Drive

O'Connor . Cnr Stock Road & South Street

Subiaco . Shop 7, Homebase, 55 Salvado Road,
Cnr Harborne Street

Cardup . Kiln Road

Waterloo . Waterloo Road

TASMANIA

Longford . Cressy Road





The information in this booklet has been sourced from the Think Brick Cleaning of Clay Masonry handbook 2008 and the Concrete Masonry Association of Australia Cleaning Concrete Masonry Data Sheet 2003. Photographs should be considered indicative of colour and texture only. Please view current product samples before making your final selection.