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## Efflorescence

### **What is efflorescence?**

Efflorescence is a whitish, powder like deposit that may sometimes appear on the surface of the paving stones or any cement based product. It may appear immediately or within a short time after installation. Leaving the paving stone to look like the color is fading but you may notice that when wet the efflorescence vanishes. Left alone, normal wear and exposure to the elements will dissipate the efflorescence. Efflorescence is a normal occurrence in all cement-based products. If there is a need to remove the efflorescence before it naturally wears away, best results are obtained by using a proprietary efflorescence remover, which is available from most mason supply dealers.

### **How does efflorescence occur?**

All concrete products contain cement, which produces water-soluble calcium oxide (lime). Concrete paving materials contain millions of tiny invisible pores; when moisture penetrates into these pores either from rain, dew or condensation it dissolves part of the lime to make calcium hydroxide. When the slab dries out, the calcium hydroxide rises to the surface and reacts with the carbon dioxide in the air; sometimes leaving a white bloom of calcium carbonate once the water has evaporated.

### **How long will efflorescence last?**

On an average it can take 12 months to 24 months to disappear. BUT it is very difficult to predict because there are very important factors such as climate, location and conditions.

We truly value your feedback!

