



Brick Cleaning & Maintenance

Generally speaking, once thin brick are installed and the mortar has fully cured, thin brick should be maintained using the same techniques as full brick installations. (ref BIA technical note 20, www.gobrick.com). One exception would be that if any mortar needs to be repointed, the depth of the pointing would only run as thick as the thin brick. Other exceptions are described below.

General Cleaning:

General washing should be performed with a cleanser specifically designed for brick masonry. McNear recommends the use of Prosoco products (www.prosoco.com). Use caution and carefully follow their recommendations for cleanser and cleaning instructions. Always test a small inconspicuous area first. Never clean with Muriatic Acid!

Some of our brick varieties are manufactured with coatings derived from historic building products, such as lime and cement, and these coatings can be adversely affected by strong cleansers and acids. Acids, and cleansers containing acids, should NEVER be used on the following bricks:

- Berkshire
- Black Hills
- Greenhill
- Greenwich
- Holbourn
- Limehouse
- Portsmouth
- Rustic
- Sacramento Rustic
- San Joaquin Rustic
- Santa Fe Rustic
- Whitehall

Sealing:

For most of our products, McNear generally does not recommend sealing brick, as some sealers can change the natural beauty of the brick. But for some colors, sealing is advantageous, and for others it is absolutely necessary. Some of our Old California and Sandmold colors incorporate lime, cement, and other materials to mimic the look of actual reclaimed bricks. Like



actual reclaimed bricks, these coatings are vulnerable to wear and weathering, and benefit from a good polymeric sealer, such as NanoPave JSS.

In areas where cleaning is required, such as kitchens, restaurants, and interior spaces, application of a sealer can produce a surface which is both easier to clean and which can withstand repeated cleansings without damage to the coatings on the bricks. We recommend NanoPave JSS Natural Look, manufactured by TechniSoil, for this purpose. NanoPave JSS Natural Look is a water-based, VOC-free product which can be purchased locally or through McNear Brick & Block. A pump-spray canister is typically used to apply NanoPave JSS Natural Look, and a small test application should be done first in an unobtrusive area to determine the amount of coating desired. Correctly applied, NanoPave Natural Look will leave little or no sheen. If a higher sheen is desired, use the NanoPave JSS Enhanced Finish.

We **RECOMMEND** sealing the following colors:

Black Hills
Greenhill
Portsmouth
Rustic
Sacramento Rustic
Santa Fe Rustic
Whitehall

The following colors have especially fragile coatings, and **MUST** be sealed:

Balboa
Berkshire
Greenwich
Limehouse
Holbourn

When any sealer is applied, always follow the manufacturer's recommendations and instructions. And always test a small, inconspicuous area first.