

Instruction for Cleaning and Upkeep of Capital Cast Stone

Thank you for selecting cast stone fabricated by Capital Cast Stone. We trust that you will enjoy the appearance of our products for many years to come. Cast stone is typically regarded as a maintenance free material however; there are a few items of proper care that we should mention to help ensure a pleasant, durable, long lasting appearance.

1. During periods of winter weather, care should be taken to prevent de-icing salts from coming in contact with cast stone. All masonry materials carry with them an absorptive quality which allows them to bond with mortar materials. It is this absorptive quality that can draw the de-icing salts into the material as the ice and snow melt. The use of de-icing salts increase the total number of annual freeze thaw cycles thereby increasing the possibility that there may be some spalling or popping. Consider using coarse sands in areas where cast stone meets paving materials. In areas where the use of salts is mandatory, consider applying a sealant prior to winter weather. Proper care should be given to select a sealant that has a high rate of permeation allowing moisture trapped in the wall cavity to escape while preventing moisture from penetrating the exposed surface. At the very least, salt absorption causes unsightly blemishes to appear in the material.
2. The use of sealants may also be used in areas where stained mulch may be installed. Applying a sealant in these areas will aid in preventing the cast stone materials from being stained by splash back during periods of rain and flooding.
3. Depending of the installation contractor's preference, coping will sometimes be installed using mortar or using a caulk sealant. Periodically checking the joints in the coping will help identify if some of the mortar joints have failed allowing water to enter the wall cavity. Should there be a recurring issue with water penetration where a traditional mortar joint exists it may be necessary to replace that joint with a flexible sealant.
4. In areas where there have been mechanical attachments to cast stone, periodically check to make sure that the joint around the fasteners are sealed.
5. Depending on the surrounding environment and construction site, cleaning may be necessary. If cleaning the entire masonry wall will take place we recommend soaking the cast stone with clean water prior to washing the wall. We recommend contacting a qualified masonry contractor to wash the masonry wall. Do not use acid in the cleaning of cast stone. In normal cleaning, use a mild detergent with a standard stiff cleaning brush. Capital Cast Stone discourages the use of power (pressure) washers in the cleaning of masonry walls.

Again, thank you for selecting Capital Cast Stone.