

Do You Know the Difference?

Efflorescence vs Polyhaze



Efflorescence

Our industry defines efflorescence as a white deposit that can appear on cast-in-place concrete, masonry products, and brick and pavers made of clay. Typically, lime is the cause, which can emanate from the materials used for the bedding layer and aggregate base, or soil.

In high-density concrete products, such as our concrete pavers and retaining wall block, the cause may be rooted in cement, the essential component of concrete. While strong enough to be used immediately, the concrete of these products continues to cure over time. Moisture from rain, sprinklers, or the bedding material reacts with calcium oxide, a key ingredient of cement, as it migrates to the surface through a slow evaporation process to form calcium hydroxide, which appears as a white chalky residue on the surface. The use of poor-setting bed material, such as stone dust, can cause and exaggerate the appearance of efflorescence.

Efflorescence is strictly cosmetic and does not indicate a flawed or defective product. As such, IDEAL, as do all paver manufacturers, accepts no liability for the occurrence of efflorescence.

Efflorescence will almost always appear as a ring or irregular blotches, not on every paver, and will be inconsistent across multiple sizes used in the installation.

What to do if you have Efflorescence

Efflorescence is water soluble and typically lessens or disperses over time with rain, snow or even wear from regular pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Often the best remedy is to allow it to dissipate naturally over time.

Otherwise, concrete pavers and segmental wall units can be cleaned with common household detergents (vinegar or diluted bleach) or proprietary chemicals formulated to remove efflorescence. When using household detergents or acid-based cleaners, it is important to follow manufacturers' directions and always do a test spot in an inconspicuous area to determine the effects of the cleaner.

For additional information or questions on efflorescence or polymeric sand haze/residue, please contact your local Ideal representative or email info@idealblock.com.



Polymeric Sand Haze/Residue

Polymeric sand is a paver jointing material that uses polymers, activated by water, to bind the sand to fill the joints between pavers, increase interlock, and deter organic growth.

If moisture is present within the paver itself, the surrounding joints or in the base material when polymeric sand is applied, a white, hazy residue can appear. When swept across damp pavers, the polymers, dust and fine particles in the sand bond to the surface and may set up before they have been completely blown or rinsed off. The result of this will go unnoticed until the surface is completely dry. This presents as a broad, white residue resulting in a uniform stain across the affected area.

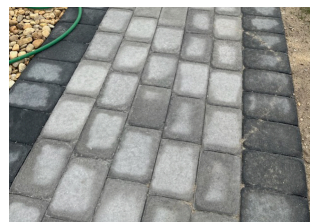
What to do to Prevent Polyhaze

While pavers may appear completely dry, intercedent moisture may be present below the surface. We recommend you check for this condition before installing polymeric sand by removing a few random pavers from the pavement to ensure no moisture is present in the joints or the bottom of your pavers. If moisture exists, wait to apply polymeric sand until joints, setting bed, and pavers are completely dry.

What to do if you have Polyhaze

Polyhaze is a relatively stubborn stain. The denser it is, the longer it will take to lessen and disperse. In most cases the pavers will need to be washed to clean the surface.

We recommend consulting with your local Ideal sales representative and the polymeric sand manufacturer for guidance on cleaning the affected area.



Polyhaze before



Polyhaze after cleaning