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Attachments

Technical Services TECH Note RILEM Tube Test Procedures Product Data literature for all products evaluated

Submitted Information

For: cc:	Paul Tessier James Holt
Subject:	Block USA Birmingham, AL
Date:	October 8, 2006
Project:	0611-04 PTP

Samples Submitted: 2 types of integrally colored concrete brick

Name	Color	Integral Water Repellent	Size
"RLB"	Red	Grace Dry-Block	15½" x 7½" x 3½"
"Liberty Tan"	Tan	Grace Dry-Block	15½" x 7½" x 3½"

Submitted by: James Holt

Introduction

Architectural Materials Testing (AMT) Laboratories is a Boyer Industries company that provides laboratory testing and consulting services for the construction industry. Laboratory testing includes evaluating chemical cleaning products and protective treatments for a variety of new and existing architectural materials.

This report includes descriptions of the PROSOCO, Inc. products and test methods that were used. Following test results and conclusions, the report provides recommendations for the most effective products and procedures.

Purpose of Testing

Two types of integrally colored block, all with large, small and fine aggregate were submitted for testing to AMT Laboratories by PROSOCO, Inc. to determine the optimum cleaning/cure time combination for complete removal of mortar and related new construction soiling. The effectiveness of protective water repellents and graffiti control products suitable for concrete brick was also evaluated.

New Construction Cleaning – Sure Klean[®] Custom Masonry Cleaner and Sure Klean[®] Concrete Brick Cleaner were evaluated to determine the optimal concentration of cleaner for removal of laboratory applied mortar which also leaves the external surface looking most like the untreated surface.

To simulate new construction soiling all samples were placed on a bench with finished surface facing upward. Hollow cylinders measuring 50 mm in diameter and 75 mm tall were positioned on top of each sample and filled with a wet mixture of Type S mortar. The wet, mortar-filled cylinder was allowed to remain in contact with the samples for 10 minutes before removal.

Heavy deposits of mortar were removed with dry scraping after 24 hours. Prepared cleaning solutions were then evaluated for their effectiveness in removing residual Type S mortar staining after 3 days, 7 days, and 14 days of curing.

Color uniformity was evaluated by comparing aggregate exposure and surface pigment alteration/removal of each cleaned surface compared to the untreated surface of the concrete brick.

Aggregate Exposure is the visual examination comparing aggregate exposure of the untreated surface of the concrete brick to surfaces cleaned with selected product(s) at given dilutions.

Surface Pigment Alteration/Removal is the visual examination comparing the pigmentation of the untreated surface of the concrete brick to surfaces cleaned with selected product(s) at given dilutions.

The following is the scale used for reporting results of both categories:

- 0 Worst match to through-body
- 3 Good match to through-body
- 1 **Poor** match to through-body
- 4 **Best** match to through-body
- 2 **Fair** match to through-body

Protective Water Repellents – Sure Klean[®] Custom Masonry Sealer, Sure Klean[®] Weather Seal Blok-Guard[®] & Graffiti Control II and Sure Klean[®] Weather Seal Siloxane WB Concentrate were evaluated for their ability to provide water repellency to the submitted samples.

Graffiti Control – Sure Klean[®] Custom Masonry Sealer and Sure Klean[®] Weather Seal Blok-Guard[®] & Graffiti Control II were evaluated for their ability to control graffiti on the submitted samples. Sure Klean[®] Fast Acting Stripper and Defacer Eraser[®] Graffiti Wipe were evaluated for their ability to remove graffiti from the submitted samples.

Products Evaluated

New Construction Cleaning Products Evaluated

Sample	Product	Dilution
All Submitted Concrete Brick	Sure Klean [®] Custom Masonry Cleaner	1:2, 1:4, 1:6
	Sure Klean [®] Concrete Brick Cleaner	1:2, 1:3

Protective Water Repellent Products Evaluated

Sample	Product	Dilution
	Sure Klean [®] Custom Masonry Sealer	Concentrate
All Submitted Concrete Brick	Sure Klean [®] Weather Seal Blok-Guard [®] & Graffiti Control II	Concentrate
	Sure Klean [®] Weather Seal Siloxane WB Concentrate	1:9

Graffiti Control Products Evaluated

Sample	Product	Dilution
All Submitted Concrete Brick	Sure Klean [®] Custom Masonry Sealer	Concentrate
	Sure Klean [®] Weather Seal Blok-Guard [®] & Graffiti Control II	Concentrate

Graffiti Removal Products Evaluated

Sample	Product	Dilution
All Submitted Concrete Brick	Sure Klean [®] Fast Acting Stripper	Concentrate
	Defacer Eraser [®] Graffiti Wipe	Concentrate

New Construction Cleaning

These cleaning trials were conducted to determine the optimal cleaning/cure time combination to most efficiently remove Type S mortar from the submitted samples while providing the best color uniformity when compared to the through-body color of the submitted concrete brick.

Description of Products Evaluated – New Construction Cleaning

Sure Klean[®] **Custom Masonry Cleaner** – A general purpose, concentrated acidic cleaner for most custom masonry and colored concrete. Removes concrete splashes, excess mortar, mud, heavy efflorescence and surface soiling, leaving the masonry clean and uniform with no acid burning or streaking. Liquid concentrate for dilution with 2-6 parts water. Apply by brush or low-pressure spray.

Sure Klean[®] Concrete Brick Cleaner – Removes common construction and atmospheric staining from concrete brick and other architectural concrete surfaces. This general-purpose, non-etching, acidic cleaner removes rust, mud, oil, atmospheric dirt, mortar smears and other stains without altering the surface texture. Concrete Brick Cleaner adds depth to colors and brightens white matrices and exposed aggregate.

Sample Preparation – New Construction Cleaning

Type S mortar was prepared in compliance with the manufacturer's instructions, applied to the samples and allowed to cure for 3, 7, and 14 days. Mortar removal was accomplished using chemical assistance and a high-pressure water rinse with pressure rinsing equipment. The removal of Type S masonry mortar was visually evaluated after 3, 7, and 14 days of curing. A visual examination was also made to determine the optimal dilution of the tested cleaners that provides the best color uniformity when compared to the untreated surface of the concrete brick.

Test Method – New Construction Cleaning

Chemical cleaners were evaluated using the following procedure:

- 1. Pre-wet the surface with water.
- 2. Apply at the appropriate dilutions.
- 4. Reapply the product and moderately agitate with a brush.
- 5. Pressure rinse thoroughly.*
- 6. Allow the sample to dry for at least 18 hours and visually examine.
- 7. Break the sample in half and compare the through-body surfaces to the cleaned surfaces for the best match.

***Pressure Rinsing Equipment** – Masonry washing equipment generating approximately 700-800 psi with a water flow rate of 8 gallons per minute delivered through a 45 degree fan spray tip was used for rinsing.

	"RLB"			
Product	Dilution	3 day	7 day	14 day
Sure Klean [®] Custom Masonry Cleaner	1:2	100%	100%	100%
Sure Klean [®] Custom Masonry Cleaner	1:4	100%	100%	100%
Sure Klean [®] Custom Masonry Cleaner	1:6	100%	100%	100%
Sure Klean [®] Concrete Brick Cleaner	1:2	100%	100%	100%
Sure Klean [®] Concrete Brick Cleaner	1:3	100%	100%	100%
	"Liberty Tan"			
Product	Dilution	3 day	7 day	14 day
Sure Klean [®] Custom Masonry Cleaner	1:2	100%	100%	100%
Sure Klean [®] Custom Masonry Cleaner	1:4	100%	100%	100%
Sure Klean [®] Custom Masonry Cleaner	1:6	100%	100%	100%
Sure Klean [®] Concrete Brick Cleaner	1:2	100%	100%	100%
Sure Klean [®] Concrete Brick Cleaner	1:3	100%	100%	100%

Cleaning Effectiveness (% Type S Mortar Removal)

Scale used for reporting results of both categories

- 0 **Worst** match to through-body 3 **Good** match to through-body
 - 4 **Best** match to through-body
- 1 **Poor** match to through-body
- 2 **Fair** match to through-body

Test Results – Color Uniformity

Substrate: Concrete Brick	Pigment	Color: "RLB"	
Product	Dilution	Aggregate Exposure	Surface Pigment Alteration/Removal
Sure Klean [®] Custom Masonry Cleaner	1:2	2	1
Sure Klean [®] Custom Masonry Cleaner	1:4	3	2
Sure Klean [®] Custom Masonry Cleaner	1:6	3	3
Sure Klean [®] Concrete Brick Cleaner	1:2	4	3
Sure Klean [®] Concrete Brick Cleaner	1:3	4	3
Substrate: Concrete Brick	Pigment	Color: "Liberty Tan"	
Product	Dilution	Aggregate Exposure	Surface Pigment Alteration/Removal
Sure Klean [®] Custom Masonry Cleaner	1:2	2	1
Sure Klean [®] Custom Masonry Cleaner	1:4	3	2
Sure Klean [®] Custom Masonry Cleaner	1:6	3	3
Sure Klean [®] Concrete Brick Cleaner	1:2	4	3
Sure Klean [®] Concrete Brick Cleaner	1:3	4	3

Scale used for reporting results of both categories

- 0 **Worst** match to through-body 3 **Good** match to through-body
- 1 **Poor** match to through-body
 - 4 **Best** match to through-body
- 2 **Fair** match to through-body

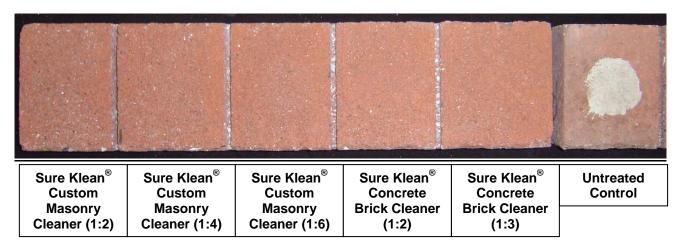
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"RLB" Concrete Brick; 3 Day Cleaning

"RLB" Concrete Brick; 7 Day Cleaning



"RLB" Concrete Brick; 14 Day Cleaning



Masonrv

Cleaner (1:2)

Sure Klean [®]	Untreated				

Masonry

Cleaner (1:6)

Brick Cleaner

(1:2)

Brick Cleaner

(1:3)

"RLB" Concrete Brick; Color Uniformity

<u>Conclusions</u> – New Construction Cleaning

Masonry

Cleaner (1:4)

Based on the test data, all of the submitted concrete brick were efficiently cleaned with at least one dilution of Sure Klean[®] Custom Masonry Cleaner and Sure Klean[®] Concrete Brick Cleaner.

Use higher concentrations and surface agitation to maximize aggregate exposure. Use low concentration and surface agitation to minimize aggregate exposure.

Recommendations – New Construction Cleaning

Recommendations for cleaning for each type of concrete brick submitted by Block USA, Birmingham, AL are provided in the chart below. Recommendations are based on the optimum dilution for complete removal of mortar while providing the best match to the untreated surface of the concrete brick.

Sample	New Construction Cleaning (Type S mortar, 14 day cleaning)
All Submitted Concrete Brick	Sure Klean [®] Custom Masonry Cleaner (1:4) OR (1:6) OR Sure Klean [®] Concrete Brick Cleaner (1:2) OR (1:3)

The most appropriate cleaner and dilution should be determined on the specific job-site, and will be dependent primarily on the nature and severity of soiling present at that location.

Apply all products in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation provided on container labels and product data sheets. On-site testing should be conducted to determine the most appropriate cleaning product and procedures for a particular project. See product literature for additional application and product information.

NOTE: Sure Klean® Custom Masonry Cleaner can be used on integrally colored concrete brick. Use Sure Klean® Concrete Brick Cleaner for concrete brick with surface applied (flash-spray) color.

Protective Water Repellents

The testing described below evaluates the suitability of water repellent treatments.

The surface treatments evaluated were selected for their suitability for application based on the following selection criteria:

- 1. Weatherproofing properties
- 2. Color change
- 3. Ease of application

Description of Products Evaluated – Protective Water Repellents

Sure Klean[®] Custom Masonry Sealer – A clear, solvent-based silicone elastomer formulated to weatherproof custom masonry units, cast stone, architectural concrete block, pre-cast concrete, wood and porous masonry. Custom Masonry Sealer penetrates and fills pores to prevent water penetration through exterior walls exposed to normal weathering.

Sure Klean[®] Weather Seal Blok-Guard[®] & Graffiti Control II – A clear-drying, water-based silicone emulsion for weatherproofing concrete block and other porous masonry materials. Blok-Guard[®] & Graffiti Control II also protects masonry surfaces from graffiti attacks without altering the natural appearance. Blok-Guard[®] & Graffiti Control II protects exterior walls exposed to normal weathering. Graffiti removal from treated surfaces is fast and easy using Defacer Eraser[®] Graffiti Wipe. Blok-Guard[®] & Graffiti Control II is easy to apply with low-pressure spray, brush or roller.

Sure Klean[®] Weather Seal Siloxane WB Concentrate – A self-emulsifying water repellent concentrate designed for dilution with fresh water at the job site. This solvent-free blend of silanes and oligomeric alkoxysiloxanes mixes easily with water to produce a penetrating water repellent ideal for application to dense or porous masonry surfaces.

Sample Preparation – Protective Water Repellents

The submitted samples were scored and allowed to dry for 24 hours prior to treatment. All of the products were applied by brush in accordance with the current PROSOCO, Inc. Product Data Sheet application instructions. All treatments were allowed to cure for at least 72 hours prior to testing.

Test Methods – Protective Water Repellents

Water Absorption Tube Test: RILEM II.4, 60 mph, 20 Minutes

The water absorption tube test simulating wind driven rain conditions was performed. This test simulates 60 mile per hour wind driven rain conditions for a period of 20 minutes. See Technical Services TECH Note RILEM Tube Test Procedures.

Water Absorption Tube Test: RILEM II.4, 60 mph, 20 Minutes

Results

47 mph				
59 mph				
60 mph				
60 mph				
"Liberty Tan"				
<40 mph				
60 mph				
59 mph				
59 mph				

Photographs – Protective Water Repellents

"Liberty Tan" Concrete Brick; RILEM II.4, 60 mph, 20 Minutes



Sure Klean[®] Custom Masonry Sealer



Sure Klean[®] Weather Seal Siloxane WB Concentrate

Untreated Control

<u>Conclusions</u> – Protective Water Repellents

Based upon laboratory evaluations, all of the products tested provided excellent water repellency to each of the submitted samples. In addition, Sure Klean[®] Custom Masonry Sealer and Sure Klean[®] Weather Seal Blok-Guard[®] & Graffiti Control II provided a slight to moderate color enhancement to the submitted samples. Sure Klean[®] Weather Seal Siloxane WB Concentrate diluted with nine parts water did not alter the appearance of the samples in any way.

Recommendations – Protective Water Repellents

Recommendations for water repellency for each type of concrete brick submitted by Block USA, Birmingham, AL are provided in the chart below. Recommendations are based on the treatment that proved most effective and can provide water repellency on all types submitted.

Sample	Protective Water Repellents			
All Submitted Concrete Brick	*Sure Klean [®] Custom Masonry Sealer OR Sure Klean [®] Weather Seal Blok-Guard [®] & Graffiti Control II OR Sure Klean [®] Weather Seal Siloxane WB Concentrate			

*NOTE: Sure Klean[®] Custom Masonry Sealer is manufactured and marketed in compliance with USEPA AIM VOC regulations (40 CFR 59.403). This product may not be suitable for sale in states and districts with more restrictive AIM VOC regulations.

Apply all products in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation provided on container labels and product data sheets. On-site testing should be conducted to determine the most appropriate water repellent product and procedures for a particular project. See product literature for additional application and product information.

Graffiti Control

This evaluation compares the effectiveness of graffiti control treatments in preventing staining of enamel spray paint and permanent markers.

Description of Products Evaluated – Graffiti Control

Graffiti Control Treatments

Sure Klean[®] Custom Masonry Sealer – A clear, solvent-based silicone elastomer formulated to weatherproof custom masonry units, cast stone, architectural concrete block, pre-cast concrete, wood and porous masonry. Custom Masonry Sealer penetrates and fills pores to prevent water penetration through exterior walls exposed to normal weathering.

Sure Klean[®] Weather Seal Blok-Guard[®] & Graffiti Control II – A clear-drying, water-based silicone emulsion for weatherproofing concrete block and other porous masonry materials. Blok-Guard[®] & Graffiti Control II also protects masonry surfaces from graffiti attacks without altering the natural appearance. Blok-Guard[®] & Graffiti Control II protects exterior walls exposed to normal weathering. Graffiti removal from treated surfaces is fast and easy using Defacer Eraser[®] Graffiti Wipe. Blok-Guard[®] & Graffiti Control II is easy to apply with low-pressure spray, brush or roller.

Products Evaluated for Graffiti Removal

Defacer Eraser[®] Graffiti Wipe – An easy-to-use graffiti remover that does not contain methanol, methylene chloride or other halogenated solvents prohibited on many projects. Graffiti Wipe removes a variety of graffiti stains from most smooth masonry, split-face concrete block, wood and metal surfaces.

Sure Klean[®] Fast Acting Stripper – A thixotropic stripping compound formulated specifically for removal of high strength paints and coatings such as epoxies, polyurethanes, and floor enamels. Additionally, Fast Acting Stripper dissolves most spray paints, marking pens, lacquers and other graffiti.

Graffiti Agents

Interior/Exterior Spray Paint (Red) Permanent Marker (Green) Permanent Marker (Red) Permanent Marker (Black)

Sample Preparation – Graffiti Control

Sections of the concrete brick were treated with Sure Klean[®] Custom Masonry Sealer and Sure Klean[®] Weather Seal Blok-Guard[®] & Graffiti Control II in accordance with the current PROSOCO, Inc. Product Data Sheet application instructions and allowed to cure for at least one day. At the end of the cure period, a visual adverse effects evaluation was made and then the graffiti agents were applied to the substrates.

Spray paint and markers were applied as graffiti agents to all treated surfaces no sooner than one day following application of Sure Klean[®] Custom Masonry Sealer and Sure Klean[®] Weather Seal Blok-Guard[®] & Graffiti Control II. Removal of the graffiti agents was attempted 24 hours after application of the graffiti agents, using Defacer Eraser[®] Graffiti Wipe and Sure Klean[®] Fast Acting Stripper.

Test Method – Graffiti Control

Chemical cleaners were evaluated using the following procedure:

- 1. Apply the product to a dry surface, soiled with graffiti.
- 2. Allow appropriate dwell time:
- 4. Allow the surface to dry thoroughly and visually examine to determine effectiveness.

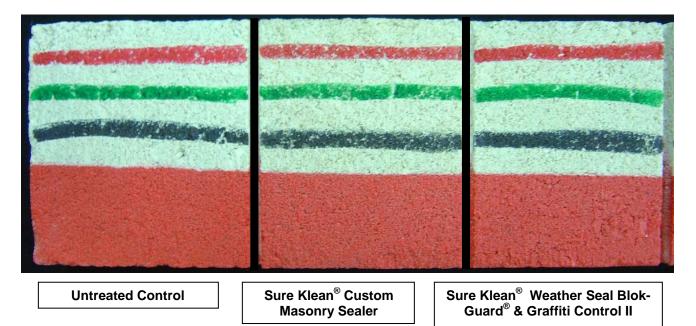
*Pressure Rinsing Equipment - Masonry washing equipment generating approximately 700-800 psi with a water flow rate of 8 gallons per minute delivered through a 45 degree fan spray tip was used for rinsing.

Test Results – Graffiti Control

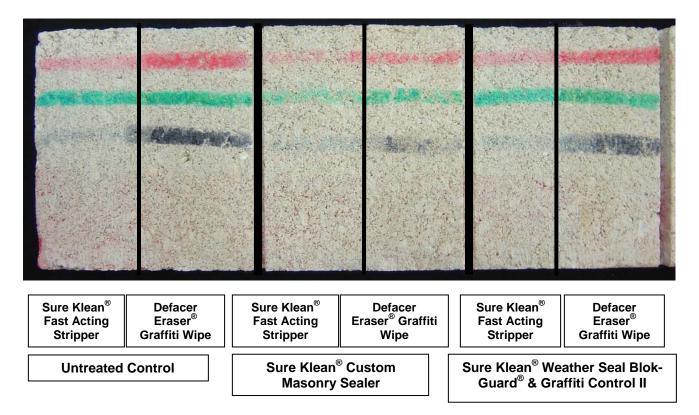
"RLB"						
Untreated Control	Red Paint	Black Marker	Green Marker	Red Marker	% Avg. Removal	
Fast Acting Stripper	100%	98%	40%	95%	83.25%	
Graffiti Wipe	100%	10%	50%	60%	55.00%	
Custom Masonry Sealer	Red Paint	Black Marker	Green Marker	Red Marker	% Avg. Removal	
Fast Acting Stripper	100%	99%	90%	98%	96.75%	
Graffiti Wipe	100%	70%	80%	90%	85.00%	
Blok-Guard [®] & Graffiti Control II	Red Paint	Black Marker	Green Marker	Red Marker	% Avg. Removal	
Fast Acting Stripper	100%	98%	60%	95%	88.25%	
Graffiti Wipe	100%	50%	50%	80%	70.00%	
"Liberty Tan"						
Untreated Control	Red Paint	Black Marker	Green Marker	Red Marker	% Avg. Removal	
Fast Acting Stripper	98%	95%	40%	90%	80.75%	
Graffiti Wipe	99%	30%	30%	30%	47.25%	
Custom Masonry Sealer	Red Paint	Black Marker	Green Marker	Red Marker	% Avg. Removal	
Fast Acting Stripper	99%	98%	95%	98%	97.50%	
Graffiti Wipe	99%	95%	90%	95%	94.75%	
Blok-Guard [®] & Graffiti Control II	Red Paint	Black Marker	Green Marker	Red Marker	% Avg. Removal	
Fast Acting Stripper	99%	99%	80%	95%	93.00%	
Graffiti Wipe	99%	80%	80%	80%	84.75%	

Photographs – Graffiti Control





"Liberty Tan" Concrete Brick; After Graffiti Removal



Conclusions – Graffiti Control

Based upon laboratory evaluations, graffiti removal was improved when the submitted samples were treated with Sure Klean[®] Custom Masonry Sealer and Sure Klean[®] Weather Seal Blok-Guard[®] & Graffiti Control II prior to graffiti application.

In addition, both treatments provided a slight to moderate color enhancement to the submitted samples.

Recommendations – Graffiti Control

Recommendations for graffiti control treatment for each type of concrete brick submitted by Birmingham, AL are provided in the chart below. Recommendations are based on the treatment that proved most effective for providing graffiti repellency and the product that was most effective at removing the graffiti on all types submitted.

Sample	Graffiti Repellents	Graffiti Removers
All Submitted Concrete Brick	*Sure Klean [®] Custom Masonry Sealer OR Sure Klean [®] Weather Seal Blok-Guard [®] & Graffiti Control II	Defacer Eraser [®] Graffiti Wipe OR Sure Klean [®] Fast Acting Stripper

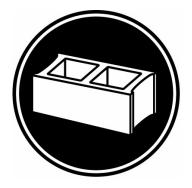
*NOTE: Sure Klean[®] Custom Masonry Sealer is manufactured and marketed in compliance with USEPA AIM VOC regulations (40 CFR 59.403). This product may not be suitable for sale in states and districts with more restrictive AIM VOC regulations.

Apply all products in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation provided on container labels and product data sheets. Because the severity of graffiti varies from location to location, on-site testing should be conducted to determine the most appropriate graffiti control product and procedure for a particular project.

John Lancaster Project Testing Laboratory Technician



Block USA 2570 Ruffner Rd. Birmingham, AL 35210



Project No. 0611-04 PTP



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