

# COMMON BOND

A Publication For Glen-Gery  
Brick Distributors

  
Glen-Gery Brick

Issue 77  
June 1999

## Cleaning Polychromatic Brickwork

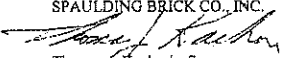
As more and more projects are using several brick colors, we are seeing more problems with cleaning the masonry. Although testing of a particular combination of brick, shapes, and perhaps, color mortar, can show that relatively strong cleaning chemicals (SureKlean #600 and Diedrich #202, for example) and a certain cleaning method are safe, neither Glen-Gery nor its distributors have the facilities to do this testing. Thus, to protect ourselves from any liability, we must give the most conservative advice available. There are a few general rules that will help you to give "safe" advice:

- If a colored mortar is used, always use Vana Trol or #202V (or similar).
- If one brick requires #600 and one brick requires Vana Trol, use Vana Trol.
- If one brick has a rinse pressure limit of 1,000 psi and another 400 psi, use 400 psi.
- If one brick allows no cleaning, do not clean any of the brick.
- Other materials (pre-cast concrete, cast stone and natural building stone) require special cleaning methods and chemicals. Have the contractor contact the material manufacturer for specific instructions.
- If you did not sell all of the brick and mortar, all you can do is give advice about products that you sold.

Spaulding Brick is a distributor of Glen-Gery Brick and has been a distributor of Diedrich Technologies' products since 1993. It has been the experience of Spaulding Brick as a Glen-Gery Brick distributor and our contractor customers that Diedrich products have provided excellent results in new construction masonry cleaning on Glen-Gery brick as well as technical assistance in support of all of their products.

Sincerely,

SPAULDING BRICK CO., INC.

  
Thomas Kachoris, Sr.  
President

Glen-Gery Corporation  
Corporate Offices  
1166 Spring Street  
P.O. Box 7001  
Wyomissing, PA 19610-6001  
810-374-4011  
Fax: 610-374-1822

12 May 1995

Steve Weaver, R.A.  
Hayes Large Architects  
P. O. Box 1784  
Altoona, PA 16603

RE: Ligonier Valley Middle School  
Ligonier, PA

Dear Mr. Weaver:

Apparently there have been some concern about the specific cleaners to be used to clean the Glen-Gery M93, M27-28, and M92-119 brick used to clad the Middle School. As a result, selection of a cleaner has been delayed.

This delay is a fortunate circumstance if correspondence from Diedrich Technologies is correct. This correspondence states that the contract documents require the use of either "Brickbath" or ProSoCo Sure Klean #600. Brickbath is a product which is unknown by Glen-Gery Corporation and is absolutely *not recommended* for cleaning the brick listed above. Because of the nature of the brick listed above, Sure Klean #600 is likely to cause considerable staining of the brick and Sure Klean #600 is *not recommended* for use on these brick.

Glen-Gery's traditional recommendation for the cleaning of the listed brick is Sure Klean Vanatrol applied by the bucket and brush method. A pressure washer may only be used during rinsing and the pressure at the face of the wall should be no more than 400 p.s.i.

Recently, Diedrich has introduced a line of specialty cleaning chemicals which are direct competitors for many of the cleaners in the ProSoCo line. We have had the opportunity to test 202 and 202V on a number of our products and have been quite pleased with the results. Unfortunately, we have not tested the appropriate Diedrich chemical—#202V Vana-Stop—on the M93, M27-28, and M92-119 brick.

In light of the performance of the Diedrich products on a cross-section of Glen-Gery products, we certainly do not object to the use of #202V on the listed brick if the #202V is tested on the field panel or suitable other construction and found to be a suitable cleaner. To decide 'suitability', the cleaned masonry must be allowed to dry thoroughly to determine if staining does occur. If no staining occurs after a suitable period, the #202V may be used, observing all normal precautions and safety procedures. If staining does develop, Sure Klean Vanatrol should be used.

It is Glen-Gery's philosophy that no one is better able to provide advice about the cleaning of brick than the manufacturer of that product. We have prepared detailed recommendations for our products and have made them part of our pricing lists so that the information is readily available to all of our customers. In the future, you can call your local Glen-Gery Distributor for cleaning information. If you are uncomfortable with this, please call your Glen-Gery District Sales Manager, Pete Mohl, at 216-726-6603, or me for this information or for answers to any other questions about brick masonry.

Very truly yours,  
Glen-Gery Corporation

  
Ronald J. Hunsicker, P.E.  
Manager, Architectural Services

cc: Larry Katke, Diedrich Technologies, 7373 South 6th St., Oak Creek, WI 53154  
P. Mohl  
R. Staub

E-mail: [gg@glengerybrick.com](mailto:gg@glengerybrick.com)