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 E. Kashania, Sr.
President