

## **Care and Maintenance**

### **DIAMOND DESIGN PRECAST, INC.**

Precast concrete products can last for decades if properly cared for and maintained. While concrete products are sturdy and strong, there are some things that can damage them. But if you take proper care of your new concrete, you will get many years of satisfactory use. Here are ways you can maintain your precast concrete to keep it structurally sound and looking great!

#### **Sealing**

It is always recommended to seal concrete to protect it from staining and help keep it looking new. There are many different concrete sealers readily available. We recommend the regular application of a penetrating sealer applied after following the manufacturer's directions for safety and application.

#### **Cleaning**

Should your precast concrete products become dirty, they can be scrubbed with a fiber brush, using a mild detergent and water then rinsing with clean water. For stubborn stains there are commercial stain removers made for precast concrete that can be used. Please follow the manufacturer's directions for safety and application.

Pressure washing our products is NOT recommended as it can erode the surface and change the aesthetic appearance.

#### **Avoid Impacts**

Care should be taken to protect your new precast products from impacts as they can be chipped or scratched. The use of hand carts or furniture dollies are common sources of impact damage. Please avoid the use of these as a means of moving the concrete as this could void or limit any warranties offered for your products.

#### **Do Not Use Salt and Other Deicers**

In Winter, precast concrete should be shoveled or swept free of snow. Sand may be applied to add traction. Salt and other ice melting chemicals (deicers) should NOT be used as they can cause spalling damage.

#### **Cleaning Efflorescence**

Efflorescence is a powdery white substance that can appear on the surface of concrete when water is allowed to flush through over a period of time. The substance is mineral salt and can be safely cleaned from the surface with soap and water. Stubborn efflorescence can be cleaned with a commercial cleaner meant for this purpose. Please follow the manufacturer's directions for safety and application.

#### **Protect from Extreme Heat**

Do not expose your precast concrete to extreme heat. The use of heating torches for welding can cause the surface finish to pop and could void or limit any warranties offered.