

## Color Selection

County Materials recommends immediately verifying the product and color upon receipt and prior to opening pallets. For any discrepancies, contact your local County Materials' representative before installation. Use of product constitutes acceptance.

## Mock-up Sample Wall Panel

Before project installation begins, construct a separate (not part of the actual building) mock-up sample wall panel of not less than 4 feet by 4 feet with Premier Ultra Burnished units in the pattern, type, color, finish and shape specified. This sample wall panel must be completed for evaluation of surface preparation techniques, application workmanship, as well as the application methods for any water repellents in mortar, and cleaning and sealing agents.

## Proper Color Distribution and Installation Techniques

Because concrete units are manufactured with high quality, naturally-mined aggregates and materials, variations in color or shading should be expected in products that are manufactured at different times and in units having different shapes. This color or shading variation is acceptable in the industry.

The contractor must install concrete units in accordance with the masonry industry's best practices, according to NCMA and MSJC standard specifications, and the manufacturer's instructions. Install units from several pallets to ensure distribution of color. County Materials is not liable or responsible for loss or damage resulting from improper use, handling or failure to follow installation instructions. Follow recommended warnings and/or advisories.

## Efflorescence

Efflorescence is a naturally occurring process in all concrete products which may appear in the form of a white powdery film on the unit's surface. Efflorescence



may be more perceivable in darker colors. It does not, in any way, compromise the functionality or the structural integrity of the product or your installation. Although efflorescence cannot be prevented, it will wash off over time or it can be cleaned with an industry cleaner (see Cleaning). County Materials accepts no responsibility or liability for the occurrence of efflorescence.

## Water Repellents

Integral water repellents can be added to most CMUs for improved performance both in the product and building structure. Water repellents are just one part of an improved wall system that includes proper design and installation. Water repellent options are also available for mortar and are specific to application requirements and desired results.

County Materials recommends asking a County Materials representative for information about complimentary water repellents for CMUs and mortar. Use of the water repellent in mortar must comply with all instructions provided by the water repellent manufacturer, and the water repellent method in mortar must be performed on a separate mock-up sample wall panel not less than 4 feet by 4 feet prior to approval. County Materials accepts no responsibility or liability for the use of water repellents in mortar used with our concrete masonry products.

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(Continued from page 1)

## Cleaning

Always keep walls clean during construction. Wipe newly laid walls with a damp cloth or wrung-out sponge to remove green mortar. Do not allow excess mortar lumps or smears to harden on the finished surface. Harsh cleaning methods after walls have been erected might mar the surface of units.

Concrete cleaning agents are not required but are an option for Premier Ultra Burnished Masonry Units. There are many different cleaning agents specific to application requirements and desired results. County Materials recommends asking a County Materials representative for information about concrete cleaning agents. Use of the cleaning agent must comply with all instructions provided by the cleaning agent manufacturer, and the cleaning agent method must be performed on a separate mock-up sample wall panel not less than 4 feet by 4 feet prior to approval. County Materials accepts no responsibility or liability for the use of cleaning agents on our Premier Ultra Burnished Masonry Units.

***(Caution: strong acid solutions and pressure washing are never advised. They can burn mortar joints and permanently discolor the face).***

## Sealing

A field coat application of concrete sealer is recommended on County Materials' Premier Ultra Burnished Masonry Units to minimize scratches, scrapes, and problems that may occur during storage, construction and clean down.

**There are additional advantages to field-coat sealer applications not provided by factory-applied sealers:**

- Simplifies graffiti removal
- Enhances moisture resistance
- Resists the elements
- Minimizes efflorescence, mildew and other moisture-related stains
- Provides a breathable surface that doesn't trap moisture
- Is VOC compliant and offers UV stability
- Reduces water penetration

There are many different sealing agents specific to application requirements and desired results. County Materials recommends asking a County Materials representative for information about concrete sealing agents. Use of the sealing agent must comply with all instructions provided by the sealing agent manufacturer, and the sealing agent method must be performed on a separate mock-up sample wall panel not less than 4 feet by 4 feet prior to approval. County Materials accepts no responsibility or liability for the use of sealers on our Premier Ultra Burnished Masonry Units.