

REMOVING STAINS FROM CONCRETE

OIL:

Use some mineral spirits paint thinner and a small amount of dry Portland cement. Make a puddle of the liquid over the stain and then gradually sprinkle the cement into the liquid while scrubbing with a stiff scrubbing brush. Continue to add cement until the mixture is dry enough to sweep up. In some cases, a second application may be necessary. The mildew stains are usually easy to remove. Into a gallon jug, pour one quart of laundry bleach and three quarts of water. Add this to three ounces of tri-sodium phosphate and one ounce of laundry detergent. Use a sponge to apply this to the stain, allow a minute for it to react, then wipe dry.

RUST:

Light stains can usually be removed by adding oxalic acid crystals to boiling water until no more will be dissolved. Apply this to the stain and allow it to remain for several hours, then scrub and rinse. Deep rust stains are often difficult to remove. Dissolve one part sodium citrate crystals in six parts water, then add six parts commercial glycerin. Saturate cloths with the liquid and place hydrated lime and apply this in a thick layer over the stain.

INK:

These stains can usually be bleached out with a strong solution of water and sodium perborate, or chlorine laundry bleach, or household ammonia. Soak cotton batting or thick flannel with one of the solutions and place over the stain.

COPPER & BRONZE:

These stains usually occur beneath copper window screens and gutters.

Make a paste of one part sal-ammoniac, four parts powdered whiting and ammonia, spread over the stain. Several applications may be necessary.

PAINT:

Wash up fresh paint at once with turpentine or mineral spirits. Older stains: dissolve three pounds of tri-sodium phosphate in a gallon of hot water and mop on the paint until it becomes soft and can be washed away. Strong solutions of tri-sodium phosphate may irritate the skin.

Notes:

Wear rubber gloves.

Mineral spirits is flammable.