

# Retaining Wall Units



## Color Selection

Colors shown may vary from actual hues and should only be used as a guide. Refer to actual product samples for final color selection. Because concrete products 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. 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.

## Proper Color Distribution and Installation Techniques

Color of concrete products may vary significantly between production lots. Install concrete units from several pallets to ensure distribution of color. The contractor must install concrete units in accordance with the landscape industry's best practices according to Concrete Masonry & Hardscapes Association (CMHA) Standard Specifications and the manufacturer's instructions. County Materials is not liable or responsible for loss or damage resulting from improper use, handling or failure to follow installation instructions. Follow all applicable warnings, advisories, and instructions.

## 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. County Materials accepts no responsibility or liability for the occurrence of efflorescence.

## Washing Guidelines

Seasonal maintenance is recommended for all County Materials landscape products. General washing guidelines



are provided for the following: organic stains, including fruit, soil and leaf residue, algae and moss stains, and efflorescence. Wash with a hose and stiff broom. Water pressure should be comparable to the average pressure from a home watering hose.

## Cleaning Agents

Concrete cleaning agents are not required but are an option for all County Materials retaining wall units. There are many different cleaning agents specific to application requirements and desired results. 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 not less than 7 feet by 7 feet prior to Buyer approval. County Materials accepts no responsibility or liability for the use of cleaning agents on our retaining wall units.

## Construction Residue

A possible by-product of cutting concrete units during installation with a saw is residue-filled water or concrete dust. Residue-filled water or re-hydrated dust can cling to the surface of units and leave a concrete stain. It is recommended to wash and remove the water or concrete dust from the surface of the retaining wall units before it dries. Construction residue can also happen through soil disturbance or environmental elements. These contaminants should be removed immediately; they do not compromise the functionality or the structural integrity of the product or your installation. County Materials accepts no responsibility or liability for the occurrence of construction residue or concrete stains.

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### Sealing

Concrete wall sealers are not required but are an option on County Materials wall units. There are many different sealing agents specific to application requirements and desired results. Concrete wall sealers may minimize damage from deicing chemicals, prevent staining and enhance the color. If you choose to use a sealer, industry recommendations are to use a penetrating sealer that is breathable. Use of the sealing agent must comply with all instructions provided by the sealing agent manufacturer. Sealers may change the product color; it is recommended to test sealing agent on wall block samples prior to the application of the sealing agent to the installed wall to assure desired result. County Materials accepts no responsibility or liability for the use of sealers on our wall units.

### Slip Resistance & Ice Removal

Sand is the only material recommended to improve slip resistance on concrete product surfaces. Avoid the use of deicers and fertilizers which contain the following chemicals or compounds: Sodium chloride (NaCl "Rock Salt"), Calcium chloride (CaCl<sub>2</sub>), Magnesium chloride (MgCl<sub>2</sub>), Ammonium nitrate (NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>), Ammonium sulfate (NH<sub>4</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) or Urea. Use of these chemicals may be harmful to concrete products, especially when used in excess. County Materials accepts no responsibility or liability for the use of deicers on our wall units.

