



Surface Treatment Best Practices

How to keep boards clean and extend board life



Surface treated pavers show vibrant color that enhances any hardscape design.

Board Care Background

Paver surface treatments were introduced by ACM Chemistries to the North American market in 2015.

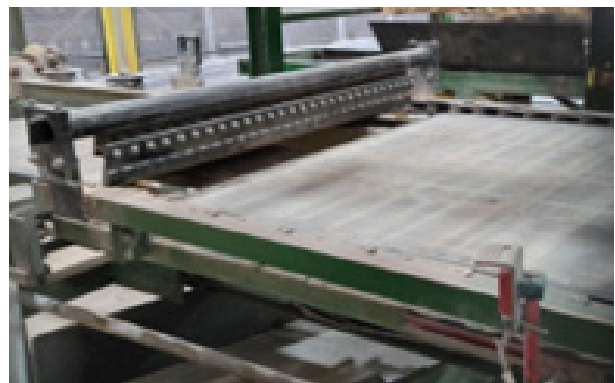
Since then we have had great success with attractive hardscape projects showcasing pavers with vibrant and durable colors that are also easy to clean. We also learned a lot about surface treatment best practices, and how to make life easier for production crews.

Surface treatment application can have unintended side effects when buildup from spray collects on boards, mostly on the outer edges. The speed and volume of buildup may be impacted by the amount of spray applied, mold configurations, and spray operations. Sometimes, seemingly small aspects like nozzle gun spray settings can make a big difference. Taking the time to adjust edge gun spray profiles and spray start and stop times can reap big rewards in reduced maintenance and extended board life.

We have also learned that some producers are simply less bothered by buildup than others. If buildup is a problem at your facility, keep reading to find out more about mechanical and chemical tools that can help.



Example of a mold configuration where unit edges are not aligned. This type of configuration will always result in overspray on the smaller unit side.



Board scrapers are a highly effective tool to prevent buildup of any kind. We recommend board scrapers for all paver producers, whether spraying or not.



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	Producer A	Producer B
History	Producer A has used surface treatments for many years. Sales loves the color options from surface treatments. Production is concerned that product heights are affected by slow but steady buildup on the boards from treatment overspray.	Producer B is a high volume facility and long time surface treatment user. Surface treated products have been a top seller. Producer B had board scrapers in place before the surface treatment program began and use them on every board, every day.
Spray Operations	Producer A adjusts spray guns to molds where possible. They do not have a board scraper in place and do not clean boards as part of regular maintenance. Attempts to clean boards using roller brush equipment were not successful.	Producer B uses molds with an uneven configuration where there is no possibility for spray adjustment to limit overspray- there will be overspray every time these molds are used. Producer B uses system where boards pass under two scrapers after cubing.
Results	Over time boards develop layers of buildup that get progressively harder to clean and eventually result in uneven product heights.	Board scrapers are highly effective in removing overspray. Boards are clean. No issues with product heights reported. They are investigating board conditioner options.

Conclusions

After years observing surface treatment application in many different production environments, we highly recommend installation of a board scraper prior to starting surface treatments, and continuous use thereafter. While not inexpensive, this equipment pays for itself over time by maintaining boards in great condition, reducing quality issues related to unit heights, and extending board life. In fact, we now recommend board scrapers for all plants, whether spraying or not.

Contact

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Go the Extra Mile - Board Conditioners

If your facility can not tolerate buildup we suggest incorporating board conditioning treatments, such as BoardShield™, to increase the effectiveness of scraper equipment and other cleaning methods. Conditioner treatments should ideally be applied before a board is placed into service, and regularly reapplied according to the manufacturers' instructions.

Use of board conditioner treatments in combination with scraper equipment has shown to be highly effective in maintaining clean and durable boards.