

TECHNICAL BULLETIN—EFFLORESCENCE



Efflorescence is a white, crystalline substance that can appear on many building materials (including stone veneer, bricks, cement walls, grout and fiber cement). Although uncommon, efflorescence may occur within TruExterior® Siding & Trim products.

TruExterior® Siding & Trim is made of a proprietary blend of materials, including a large percentage of fly ash. Fly ash is the byproduct of coal combustion in power plants and as such, it retains elements such as calcium that were originally present in the coal.

Moisture can interact with TruExterior products in unit packs due to humidity or exposure to rain in an uncovered state or through damaged/torn covers. The moisture turns the calcium oxide into calcium hydroxide (aka “hydrated lime”) and carries it to the surface of the product where it reacts with air and leaves behind calcium carbonate on the surface. This is a normal reaction based on the material used in the product and is commonly known as efflorescence.

Proper material handling will mitigate the issue but will not eliminate it.

Storage

- Product must be stored flat on a level surface in a clean, dry location.
- Keep product wrapped and protected from the elements until ready for installation.
- Painting products that are wet may result in poor paint adhesion and a defective surface condition after application.

Cleaning

- If product becomes wet, allow to air dry at ordinary temperatures with good air circulation. Mechanical drying of any type is not recommended (i.e. heated forced air, curing ovens, tunnel drying, etc.).
- Wipe off all surface debris.
- Use a 30% vinegar and water cleaning solution to help remove efflorescence.

Efflorescence is the result of a natural process and its occurrence does not mean the product is damaged or defective. It is not covered by the TruExterior Siding & Trim warranties. The amount of efflorescence that occurs is dependent on the amount of moisture in the product. It can be difficult to determine when efflorescence will stop appearing and cleaning the surface of the product multiple times may be required.