



ROCKWORKS INC.

Concrete Slide Maintenance

Your concrete slide is built to provide years of enjoyment, however, like all concrete structures, small cracks may form over time. These cracks are normal and generally won't compromise the slide's integrity, though they may allow water to settle in, leading to the build-up of efflorescence. Efflorescence appears as white streaks or a calcium-like deposit, often exacerbated by the hard water in the Valley.

These deposits can be removed by scrubbing them with a synthetic or plastic "Scotch-Brite" sponge pad, which is safe and effective for cleaning without damaging the surface. Avoid using metallic scouring pads or brushes, as they are too abrasive and could remove the protective clear sealer.

You can also use **CLR** (calcium, lime & rust remover) or **Lime-Away** to help remove calcium deposits. Alternatively, a **light acid wash** can be effective in removing calcium but be very cautious. **Acid is toxic**, so follow the directions carefully. Using too much acid can discolor the stain, so it's important to use it sparingly and rinse thoroughly with fresh water afterward.

While regular cleaning should keep your slide in good condition, it may require resealing over time. The slide is colored with concrete stain and sealed with a high-gloss, "high solids" concrete sealer designed for high-traffic areas, providing durability and long-lasting shine. However, the sealer may need to be reapplied if the slide shows signs of wear or if cracks need to be sealed.

For resealing, it's best to perform the process when outdoor temperatures are between 60°F and 90°F. Start by lightly sanding the area with 120-grit paper to rough up the surface slightly—be careful not to sand through the sealer to the underlying stain. After sanding, rinse the surface thoroughly with fresh water and a clean sponge. Make sure the area is completely dry before applying the new sealer.

Apply the sealer with a bristle brush or foam roller in smooth, even strokes. Blend any drips or runs before the sealer becomes tacky. Once finished, the slide should be ready for use the following day.

If you have any questions or would like us to do the work (for a nominal fee) please contact us at the information listed below. For DIY owners, contact.....

COHILLS BUILDING SPECIALTIES 602-266-0462