

Masonry Chemical Cleaning JHA

Worked instructional example

Work and worksite

A cleaning crew will apply an approved masonry cleaner to a released ground-level exterior test area and rinse it with controlled low-pressure water. This fictional learning example records planned controls; it supplies no actual inspections or work authorization.

- The actual cleaner, dilution, substrate compatibility and application instructions are confirmed.
- Occupants, adjoining materials and drainage can be protected from splash and runoff.
- This excludes abrasive blasting, high-pressure washing, elevated access and mixing different cleaners.

Questions before work

- Which product and dilution method are authorized?
- Where can splash, vapor and rinse water travel?
- What exposure response and waste arrangements must be ready?

Task Hazard Control

1 Release product and substrate

Hazard: An incompatible cleaner or unknown finish can create harmful reactions or damage.

Control: Foreperson confirms the approved product and test-area method against substrate information and instructions. Review the label and SDS before use.

Verification: Compare container identity and authorized test area with the cleaning plan.

Reasoning: A generic acid-cleaning label is not a product method.

2 Protect people and drainage

Hazard: Splash, vapor or runoff can reach nearby workers and public areas.

Control: Establish separation, protect affected surfaces and drains, and arrange containment and ventilation for the actual product. Confirm exposure first aid before opening containers.

Verification: Lead walks the potential runoff and exposure routes.

Reasoning: The cleaner's path extends beyond the wall face.

3 Prepare the product and equipment

Hazard: Dilution splash or incompatible containers can cause chemical burns.

Control: Use the exact product mixing sequence and compatible equipment with selected eye, face, skin and other protection. Do not mix cleaners or improvise dilution.

Verification: Operator checks product instructions, protective equipment and container identification.

Reasoning: The SDS and application instructions provide the chemical-specific controls.

Complete the work and hand over

4 Apply to the released area

Hazard: Contact, drift or longer-than-permitted exposure can injure workers or damage material.

Control: Apply by the specified method from a controlled position, maintain separation and follow product contact-time limits. Stop for unexpected reaction, drift or leakage.

Verification: Operator monitors the test area and lead maintains the boundary.

Reasoning: A successful test area is part of the method, not proof of every surface condition.

5 Rinse and collect runoff

Hazard: Slippery surfaces, splash and escaping waste can expose the crew.

Control: Rinse by the approved method with controlled collection and clear footing. Keep the boundary until runoff and exposure conditions meet the site's release requirements.

Verification: Lead checks containment and access during rinsing.

Reasoning: Rinsing transfers the chemical to another location.

6 Secure waste and hand over

Hazard: Unidentified containers or residual chemical can injure later workers.

Control: Identify and secure leftover product and waste, clean equipment by the instructions and communicate treated areas and remaining restrictions.

Verification: Foreperson verifies container labels, cleanup and the receiving supervisor's handover.

Reasoning: Clear water appearance alone does not establish waste suitability.

Pause and reassess

- Product, substrate or dilution method changes.
- Unexpected reaction, drift or worker exposure occurs.
- Containment, ventilation or exposure-response resources fail.

Improve the controls

Needs improvement: Be careful around the equipment.

More useful: Use the exact product mixing sequence and compatible equipment with selected eye, face, skin and other protection. Do not mix cleaners or improvise dilution.

Needs improvement: Check the area before starting.

More useful: Foreperson confirms the approved product and test-area method against substrate information and instructions. Review the label and SDS before use.

Decisions that change the analysis

Does rinsing make the runoff safe for a storm drain?

Do not assume that it does. Use the product and site waste requirements and required approvals. The example provides no discharge permission.

What must be recorded before this example is used on a job?

Replace the scenario with the actual work, identify additional hazards with the crew, and record the applicable instructions, responsible people, inspection findings, unresolved actions and required authorization. A planned verification is not an inspection result.

Training needs

- Actual product preparation, compatibility, protection and first aid.
- Containment, spill-response limits and authorized waste handling.

Confirm applicable qualifications and actual training evidence for the people assigned. Related toolbox talks support discussion; they do not establish competence.

References and adaptation

OSHA 1910.1200 Hazard communication

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.1200>

OSHA 1926.59 Hazard communication in construction

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.59>

OSHA 1926.21 Safety training and education

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.21>

References reviewed October 9, 2026. Use actual equipment and product instructions, project design and site requirements. This instructional example supplies no actual inspection results, signatures or work approval.