

RealCast

LIGHTWEIGHT CONCRETE

RealCast: Storage, Handling & Maintenance Guidelines

Storage and Handling

When using RealCast panels during construction or remodeling, proper handling and storage are key to preserving the integrity and appearance of the product. Whether you're working with a contractor or overseeing your own project, it's important that RealCast panels are kept dry and handled with care before installation.

Store RealCast panels in a covered, dry space and keep them elevated off the ground to avoid exposure to moisture. If stored outdoors temporarily, ensure the panels are protected with a waterproof covering and that air can circulate beneath and around the stack. Product still in packaging that becomes wet can be prone to water staining and/or efflorescence.

Moisture Management

To protect your building envelope and ensure long-term performance, make sure your property is equipped with an effective water management system. This includes well-functioning gutters and downspouts to divert water away from exterior walls. Proper drainage around the building helps maintain the structural health of both the wall system and the RealCast panels. Overexposure to water or pooling can lead to staining and/or efflorescence.

Routine Cleaning and Maintenance

Maintaining the clean, modern look of RealCast is simple. Depending on your environment—urban, coastal, forested, or dry—it's a good idea to clean the panels every 6 to 12 months. Regular maintenance will keep your walls looking fresh and extend the lifespan of the product. Environmental debris and water on exterior products can cause discoloration and staining, and if left too long can be difficult to remove and even become permanent.

Basic Cleaning Recommendations:

- Use a garden hose or low-pressure water spray to rinse away dust, dirt, and debris.
- For more stubborn spots, a soft cloth or nylon brush and a mild detergent can be used.
- Avoid abrasive tools or harsh chemicals, as these can scratch or discolor the surface.
- Do not use acid-based cleaners or high-pressure washers that exceed 1500 psi. If a pressure washer is used, maintain a wide fan spray at least 6 feet away from the surface to prevent damage.

Additional Maintenance Tips:

- Clear out gutters and downspouts regularly to prevent overflow and moisture buildup.
- Inspect caulking around penetrations, trim joints, and flashing areas. Replace any caulk that shows cracking or deterioration to prevent water infiltration.
 - Use a high-quality, permanently flexible sealant. Products that meet ASTM C920 Grade NS, Class 25 (or higher) or ASTM C834 standards are recommended.
- Keep vegetation like shrubs and trees trimmed back from the walls to prevent moisture and abrasion.
- Ensure ground clearances (typically 6") are maintained, and do not build up landscaping materials against the panels.

Sealants:

Sealants can be used on natural concrete products to minimize the effects of the environment and sun over time. If you choose to use a sealant, make sure it is compatible natural concrete and other water-based sealants. There are many types of sealants, and some may darken the color of the stone, and usually add different degrees of sheen as well. Choose a sealant that is suitable for environmental conditions and the specific application and follow the manufacturer's instructions on application method(s) and how often it should be applied.

By following these care guidelines, you'll protect your investment and keep your RealCast walls looking their best for years to come.