



Designation: D4261 – 05 (Reapproved 2018)

# Standard Practice for Surface Cleaning Concrete Masonry Units for Coating<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D4261; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers surface cleaning of concrete masonry units to remove dust, dirt, mortar spatter, oil, and grease prior to the application of coatings. Procedures include vacuum cleaning, air-blast cleaning, water cleaning, detergent water wash, steam cleaning, and mechanical cleaning.

1.2 This practice may alter the surface profile of the concrete but is primarily intended to clean the surface.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.* For specific hazard statements, see Section 5.

1.4 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

## 2. Referenced Documents

- 2.1 *ASTM Standards:*<sup>2</sup>
- D4258 Practice for Surface Cleaning Concrete for Coating
  - D4262 Test Method for pH of Chemically Cleaned or Etched Concrete Surfaces
  - D4263 Test Method for Indicating Moisture in Concrete by the Plastic Sheet Method

2.2 *Other Standard:*

- ACI 531.1-76 Specification for Concrete Masonry Construction<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D33 on Protective Coating and Lining Work for Power Generation Facilities and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D33.05 on Application and Surface Preparation.

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<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

<sup>3</sup> Available from American Concrete Institute (ACI), P.O. Box 9094, Farmington Hills, MI 48333-9094, <http://www.concrete.org>.

## 3. Summary of Practice

3.1 Surface cleaning is intended to provide a clean, contamination-free surface suitable for the application of coatings.

3.2 Acceptable surfaces shall be free of dust, dirt, mortar spatter, oil, grease, and other contaminants. Mortar joints shall be struck flush or tooled with a round jointer and shall be free of rough edges and nibs (see ACI 531.1-76).

3.3 Vacuum cleaning, air blast cleaning, water cleaning, detergent water wash, steam cleaning, hand tool, and mechanical cleaning are acceptable cleaning methods.

3.4 Any one or a combination of listed cleaning procedures may be used to achieve acceptably cleaned surfaces.

## 4. Significance and Use

4.1 Surface cleaning is to be used to prepare concrete unit masonry surfaces for applying coatings intended for light duty service, splash and spillage of water and chemical solutions, radiation exposure, decontamination, and repeated washdowns with alkaline cleaners.

## 5. Cautions

5.1 Moisture in concrete unit masonry may be detrimental to coating adhesion. Moisture content shall be in compliance with the coating manufacturer's recommendations (see Test Method D4263 for moisture test method).

## 6. Procedures

6.1 *Steam Cleaning*—This procedure is intended to remove heavy deposits of grease and oil, as well as other water soluble surface contaminants and emulsifiable materials, with a jet of high pressure steam, in accordance with Practice D4258.

6.2 *Detergent Water Wash*—This procedure is intended to remove water soluble surface contaminants, oils, grease, and other emulsifiable materials with an aqueous solution of detergent or nonsolvent emulsifier in accordance with Practice D4258.

6.3 *Water Cleaning*—This procedure is intended to remove dust, dirt, and water soluble contaminants with a stream of water under pressure, in accordance with Practice D4258.

6.4 *Mechanical Tool Cleaning:*