



Designation: D 4261 – 83 (Reapproved 1999)

Standard Practice for Surface Cleaning Concrete Unit Masonry for Coating¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 4261; 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 (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers surface cleaning of concrete unit masonry 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 is not intended to alter the surface profile of the concrete masonry units but 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 and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.* For specific hazard statements, see Section 5.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*

D 4258 Practice for Surface Cleaning Concrete for Coating²

D 4262 Test Method for pH of Chemically Cleaned or Etched Concrete Surfaces²

D 4263 Test Method for Indicating Moisture in Concrete by the Plastic Sheet Method²

2.2 *Other Standard:*

ACI Specification 531.7-76 Specification for Concrete Masonry Construction³

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 D 4263 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 D 4258.

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 D 4258.

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 D 4258.

6.4 *Mechanical Tool Cleaning:*

6.4.1 The intent of this procedure is to remove mortar spatter, efflorescence, and similar dry, firmly adhering foreign material prior to performing either cleaning operation.

6.4.2 This procedure shall consist of scraping, abrading, brushing, or stoning to dislodge mortar and similar materials from the surface.

6.4.3 Clean in accordance with Practice D 4258 to remove dust and loose particles.

6.5 *Vacuum Cleaning*—This procedure is intended to remove surface dust and other debris by vacuum cleaning in accordance with Practice D 4258.

6.6 *Air Blast Cleaning*—This procedure is intended to remove debris, dust, dirt, and loosely adhering material by air blast cleaning in accordance with Practice D 4258.

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-33 on Protective Coating and Lining Work for Power Generating Facilities and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D33.05 on Surface Preparation.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 06.02.

³ Available from American Concrete Institute, 22400 W. Seven Mile Rd., Detroit, MI 48219.