



moisture in the air. As this migration is taking place, many other destructive pollutants are also being absorbed into the concrete; sulfates, salts, anti-freeze, oil, lime, random odors and all kinds of contaminants. Some are held captive in the pores of your concrete, creating the environment for rapid decay.

### Another Point

Algae, mildew and moss are present on concrete because of the moisture in and around it. Moisture helps these plants and bacteria survive. If the moisture is eliminated by sealing the concrete, you have eliminated an entry point for these pollutants to exist and penetrate.



On the other end is the alkali problem. Alkali is made up of a combination of elements including hydrogen, lithium, sodium, potassium, rubidium, cesium and francium, all chemical elements which are present in the earth's crust. Because alkali is soluble in water, once the concrete gets wet this becomes a destructive solution.

### Some Problems

You can prevent, but not eliminate after the fact, most of the following problems:

☑ **Scaling and Pop-outs:** are common forms of concrete surface deterioration. Smaller particles of concrete come off the concrete surface as a result of the lack of entrained air which is exposed to the

weather elements. It can begin by moisture penetrating the surface.

- ☑ **Spalling:** The separation of larger pieces from the concrete. Spalling typically starts when small fragments of the exposed surface detach and create a rough surface. It will continue to grow deeper and wider unless corrected, the surface becomes unsafe for walking and vehicular traffic. The damage is caused by the action of weather such as freeze-thaw, wet-dry cycling, and pressure created by expansion within the concrete.
- ☑ **Crazing Cracks:** These are fine, random cracks that penetrate the actual concrete structure. They allow water and chemicals to enter the concrete and cause early deterioration through the surface.

### Q & A

- Q: How do you know when there's too much water in the concrete mix?**
  - A:** Concrete segregates once hardened. If too wet it always peels, dusts, and or cracks.
- Q: What is dusting?**
  - A:** The result of using too much water, thus causing fine particulate to rise to the surface.
- Q: What is surface peeling?**
  - A:** When larger pieces of hardened mortar come away from the concrete surface.
- Q: What is discoloration?**
  - A:** Differences in color (light and dark) caused by changing cements, changing

aggregates, and excessive use of calcium chloride in concrete formulation.

### Q: What are blisters?

**A:** Bumps on the hardened concrete surface, which are usually caused during the final finishing process.

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- ☑ Sussex
- ☑ Parts of Warren
- ☑ Parts of Somerset and Hunterdon