



Masonry Cleaning - Exterior

809 N. Broadway Milwaukee, WI 53202-3617 414-286-3280

Masonry cleaning entails the use of abrasive, chemical, water, steam or other method to remove paint, dirt, and oxidation from the surface of a commercial or residential building. Masonry cleaning can involve the use of hazardous chemicals and abrasive blasting techniques that can create undesirable air emissions, safety hazards and community nuisances. Therefore, the City requires that a permit be obtained by a property owner or contractor prior to conducting exterior masonry cleaning of a building anywhere within the city of Milwaukee.

To obtain an exterior masonry cleaning permit, a contractor or property owner must submit:

- a) a completed [application](#) and a masonry cleaning [worksheet](#), along with a the application fee to the Development Center.
- b) detailed sketch or diagram of the proposed work area indicating all controls to be used to minimize the creating of environmental contamination or public nuisance.
- c) copies of all applicable Material Safety Data Sheets for chemicals to be used as part of the cleaning method.

Other information may be requested by inspectional staff before the permit is issued.

The plans will be thoroughly reviewed for applicable health code compliance and followed by daily on-site inspections. Inspectors will monitor all phases of the project and work closely with the property owner, contractors, architects and consultant to ensure thorough code compliance. At completion of the project, a final inspection is performed to ensure that the project was conducted properly and there is no evidence

of risk to the environment or public as a result of exterior masonry building cleaning activities.

Specific questions regarding masonry cleaning permit applications should be directed to the Environmental Section at (414) 286-3280.

If you need to erect scaffolding for the cleaning project, and if the scaffolding will extend over the sidewalk, you need to get a permit to occupy the public right of way. For information about this permit, contact the Milwaukee Development Center at (414) 286-8208.

Please note that certain types of masonry cleaning methods may not be permitted on a building with a historical preservation designation. For buildings with this designation, contact the Historic Preservation Commission at (414) 286-5705 before you start your project.

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