

Concrete Efflorescence



White, flaky powder coating concrete walls and floors is caused by a naturally-occurring mineral salt called "efflorescence". This is a powder that's left behind as water vapour passes through the concrete walls and floors. Over time, these mineral deposits build up in layers so thick that it's sometimes mistaken for mould.

Efflorescence is a messy problem, but the problem is cosmetic only, it won't stain, and there are no known health issues connected with it.

What is Efflorescence?

Despite its solid form, concrete is designed to allow water to pass through it freely. If it wasn't, then wet concrete would never dry!

That's great for newly placed concrete, but what about afterwards? When concrete is in continuous contact with damp, wet earth, a portion of that moisture is continually going to enter the concrete, making its way through the micropores in the concrete.

As water passes through the concrete, it brings minerals with it. The moisture then evaporates into the basement, leaving these minerals behind. Over time, the build-up on the concrete creates the efflorescence that you see.