



Designation: C1791 – 16 (Reapproved 2021)

Standard Guide for Reduction of Efflorescence Potential in New Unit Pavement Systems¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C1791; 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 guide covers methods for reducing efflorescence potential in new unit pavement systems.

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. The SI units given in parentheses are for information only.

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.*

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:*

[C67/C67M Test Methods for Sampling and Testing Brick and Structural Clay Tile](#)

[C270 Specification for Mortar for Unit Masonry](#)

[C1180 Terminology of Mortar and Grout for Unit Masonry](#)

[C1232 Terminology for Masonry](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 Terminology defined in Terminologies [C1180](#) and [C1232](#) shall apply in this guide.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *cryptoflorescence, n*—a crystalline deposit of water-soluble compounds in the pores of unit pavement system materials.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C15 on Manufactured Masonry Units and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C15.05 on Masonry Assemblies.

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3.2.2 *efflorescence, n*—a crystalline deposit, usually white, of water-soluble compounds on the surface of a unit pavement system.

3.2.2.1 *Discussion*—While not considered to be efflorescence, stains produced by acid-soluble vanadium compounds in clay masonry are usually yellow or green; and stains produced by acid-soluble manganese compounds are usually brown or gray.

3.2.3 *jointing material, n*—mortar, aggregate, sealant, or other materials used between paver units.

3.2.4 *unit pavement system, n*—a system consisting of edge restraint, wearing course of discrete clay or concrete pavers, setting bed, jointing material, base or sub-base, or combination thereof, and appropriate drainage elements.

3.2.4.1 *Discussion*—Flexible pavement is a unit pavement system whose wearing course consists of discrete clay or concrete pavers on an aggregate base, an aggregate base stabilized with asphalt or cement, or asphalt pavement.

3.2.4.2 *Discussion*—Rigid pavement is a unit pavement system whose surface wearing course consists of discrete clay or concrete units on a rigid base such as concrete.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This guide provides information that, if implemented, will reduce efflorescence potential in new unit pavement systems. However, its implementation will not always completely prevent efflorescence.

4.2 This guide may be augmented by related information contained in the appendixes of Specification [C270](#), the additional material listed in [Appendix X1](#) in this standard, and other publications.

5. Principles of Efflorescence

5.1 Efflorescence is directly related to the quantity of water-soluble compounds within, or exposed to, a unit pavement system; and to the quantity of water exposed to these compounds. Water-soluble compounds or water causing efflorescence may be from adjacent surfaces or beneath the pavement system: for example, fertilizer in runoff from adjacent flower beds or lawns; ground water evaporating through the wearing course; water-soluble compounds leaching out of