

## News Brief—Jobsite Concerns

### Affects of Brick washing on Aluminum and Glass

All manufacturers, suppliers, and contractors want to provide a quality product or service — and project managers want to keep projects on schedule. Whether it's the fast pace of new construction projects or the restoration of existing brick buildings — brick washing practices can affect glass surfaces and aluminum finishes.

Both glass and aluminum are susceptible to certain chemical reactions created on construction projects. The contractor applying any kind of wash should pay particular attention to protecting *all* surfaces, including aluminum windows and doors and adjacent areas, thus avoiding glass etching or pitting or staining of aluminum surfaces, and sealant degradation.

Certain chemical washes, leaching of alkaline in green mortar, and masonry dust affect aluminum and glass; not just from direct contact; but also from indirect contact such as puddling, moisture, and rain. A few websites to check out regarding brick washing practices is The Brick Industry Association [gobrick.com](http://gobrick.com) (Technical Note 20); or , the National Concrete Masonry Association [ncma.org](http://ncma.org) (TEK 8-2A). Always a good source is the American Architectural Manufacturers Association [aamanet.org](http://aamanet.org) (AAMA 609 and 610-02).



The end result of any project should reflect quality craftsman workmanship by all contractors .