

## Concrete Sleeper Maintenance

Our concrete products are an extremely strong and robust building product, however, there are some basic care principles to follow to ensure that our products perform to their capabilities.

### DO's



**DO** follow the installation guide on how to build your retaining wall.



**DO** brush excess dirt off the top of the retaining wall to avoid staining.

### DON'Ts

- ✗ DO NOT** scrub the face of the sleepers to remove dirt or stains; Use a light garden hose to soften the dirt or stain and remove by hand (if possible).
- ✗ DO NOT** use a pressure hose to clean the sleepers.
- ✗ DO NOT** subject the concrete sleepers to excessive water hitting the face from a sprinkler system.
- ✗ DO NOT** use any chemical solutions to clean the sleepers (other than Efflorescence Remover).

## Damaged Sleepers

Hairline cracks can be prevalent in all concrete products however, they rarely affect the structural integrity of our concrete sleepers. Please contact our friendly staff if you have any queries regarding hairline cracks in your concrete sleepers.

If you notice more severe cracks, chips or marks on the face of the sleeper, please contact us **PRIOR TO INSTALLATION** and we can then assess the products and organise replacements, if required.

If installation of our sleepers has occurred with any existing faults – Notwood accepts no responsibility for the labour costs involved with removing the faulty sleeper(s). If there are any faults or discrepancies with products, customers must notify Notwood within 7 days of the despatched delivery date. Notwood will not provide a refund or replacement for sleepers that have been cut, modified or damaged by the customer. Please see the website for our [Sales Terms & Conditions](#) and information on our [5-Year Product Warranty](#).



DIY Wall Creator™



INSTALLATION VIDEO



E-INSTALLATION GUIDE



PRODUCT CARE GUIDE

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8/22



**NOTWOOD**  
The DIY Retaining Wall

# Product Care Guide

**40**  
MPa  
CONCRETE STRENGTH

**5**  
Year  
SLEEPER WARRANTY

At Notwood we strive to manufacture the highest quality and strongest concrete products that stand the test of time.

Caring for your products is essential to allow our products to perform to their maximum capabilities whilst being easy on the eye.

Please ensure that you read this Product Care Guide prior to using Notwood's products.

## Not all Concrete Sleepers are the same

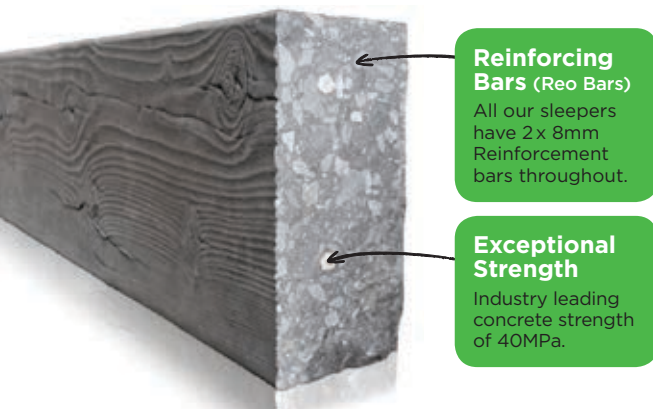
Notwood has been born out of the need to make retaining wall solutions accessible and straight forward for everybody.

The ultimate DIY solution for retaining walls and the innovative system required NO post hole digging and NO concrete to fill the holes.

The revolutionary plate support system enables anybody to design and install their own retaining wall without the need for expensive contractors and large earthmoving machinery.

Notwood manufactures all our products with an industry-leading **40MPa concrete strength** easily surpassing the strength of all other concrete sleepers that are available on the market.

Not only do we make the strongest concrete sleepers in Australia, we also offer a **5-Year Product Warranty** on our concrete sleepers (*T & C's apply*).



## Cleaning Concrete Sleepers

**Many materials will only stain sleepers if they remain in contact with them for prolonged periods.**

- Remove dust or dirt by lightly running a hose over the affected area.
- **DO NOT** scrub the sleeper.
- **DO NOT** use a high-pressure hose on concrete sleepers as it can damage the surface.
- When engaging in stain removal always start with a trial in an inconspicuous area.
- Regularly brush the top of the sleeper wall to prevent dirt and dust build up running down the face of your retaining wall.
- If a site is particularly muddy and unprepared (i.e. no lawn or paving) then it is best practice to cover the face of the sleepers with plastic sheeting (Forticon) to prevent wind from blowing excessive dust and debris onto the face of the sleepers and causing the sleepers to stain.



## Lime Bloom

### What is Lime Bloom & Lime Stain?

All pre-cast concrete products are susceptible to Lime Bloom which can appear on your concrete sleepers as thin white patches and can also make your concrete sleepers go a lighter colour overall. Lime Bloom can also give the appearance of staining and 'weeping.'

People can often mistake Lime Bloom as a defect in the product or poor-quality product colour control, but this is not the case. Lime Bloom is not detrimental in any way to the structural integrity of the concrete sleeper and is purely an aesthetic issue only.



### Cause & Prevention

Lime Bloom occurs when excess 'lime' in the form of Calcium Hydroxide migrates to the surface of the concrete sleeper as the material dries out. When this reaches the surface of the sleeper it reacts with carbon dioxide from the atmosphere which results in calcium carbonate deposits being left on the surface of the sleeper.

Concrete sleepers should be protected from the rain as much as possible which we realise is easier said than done. Prevention of excess water and moisture on the concrete sleepers will reduce the likelihood of Lime Bloom occurring.

### Remedy for Lime Bloom

Lime Bloom is temporary and typically disappears as a result of normal weathering. Rainwater, which is slightly acidic, will dissolve the calcium carbonate deposits on the surface of the concrete sleepers over a prolonged period. This length of time depends on a variety of factors such as environmental issues such as the volume of rainfall, site conditions i.e., sand, shale etc.