

Care and Maintenance of Tournesol Siteworks Lightweight Concrete (GFRC) Products



Warning: *Always open packaging upon receipt to inspect material.
Do not store long-term in original packaging or covered with plastic.*

Thank you for purchasing a quality lightweight concrete product from Tournesol Siteworks. We pride ourselves on producing containers and site furnishings that meet with your complete satisfaction, both today and into the future. All of our GFRC products are designed for use primarily in exterior applications, although they hold up beautifully indoors as well.

A few notes on Tournesol concrete finishes-

- **Sandblast Finishes** are cast with an integral color in the white cement. The part is lightly sandblasted and large imperfections removed. The finish can best be described as “medium”, between a rustic travertine (with larger imperfections) and the finer acid etch (with smaller imperfections). The finished part is treated with a satin sealer.
- **Natural Sand Finishes** start with white cement. The cast part is prepped, degreased, then sprayed with primer. The large imperfections are repaired, and the part is painted with exterior latex paint. While the paint is drying, silica sand is applied to the surface, then the surface is treated with satin sealer, which ensures the adhesion of the sand. The resulting finish has a natural, consistent appearance.
- **Travertine Finishes** are created by hand-packing concrete into a smooth mold. Surface variations are an intentional part of the rustic feel of the container. The cracks and pits will have a different texture than the smooth surface, and may appear somewhat darker. The surface is treated with a satin sealer to help prevent efflorescence and staining.
- **Acid-Etch Finishes** expose of the sand and aggregate of the concrete, similar to the sandblast finish. Depending upon the concentration and coloring of these components slight variations may appear between containers. Acid-etch finishes may have some very minor irregular surface pitting, but nothing that should distract from the overall look of the product. Acid-etch finishes will typically be sealed, which will add a light sheen to the final product.
- **Fine Grain Finishes** are typically rich, solid colors. The parts start with the same process as the Natural Sand finish, then a coat of solid paint is sprayed over the surface.
- **Granite Finishes** start with the same process as the Sandblast finish, but use a more complicated enamel paint blend to create a rich, speckled durable finish and a natural medium texture.

General Maintenance & Repair

- Move lightweight concrete products into their location on the delivery pallet, when possible. Otherwise use a sling, and ensure that the sling fully supports the bottom of the product. Large parts are cast with support slings inside the corners of the pot. These are only to be used for local positioning, or lifting off a pallet. ***Under no circumstances are these to be used as loops for hoisting by a crane hook or sling.***
- We seal the interior of planters with a cold-applied asphalt based damp-proofing layer. This will prevent most internal efflorescence (water and dissolved minerals transmitted from the interior of the pot to the outside surface). Small surface stress cracks may eventually appear in the container, but are typically restricted to the face coat of the concrete, not the stronger backing coat. They will not affect the overall strength and integrity of the planter.

- External efflorescence may occur on any and all GFRG products. We seal the product to minimize this, but moisture (dew, rainwater) that accumulates on the top may run down the sides. Minerals can wick to the surface where the moisture gathers and appear as light-colored “fingers” on the surface. It is more noticeable in dark-colored containers, and on those that are unsealed. As the concrete ages, the efflorescence becomes less noticeable.
- Concrete is a porous surface and, despite sealing, may absorb moisture and whatever minerals are in that moisture. This can cause changes to the appearance of the surface. Tournesol Siteworks uses a sealer on all acid-etch products to keep changes to a minimum. However, to maintain the look, a sealer will need to be reapplied every few years.
- To ensure pots in interior applications never leak, we recommend using a shallow plastic saucer inside the container. For exterior applications, the pot should have a drain hole in the bottom or side. Otherwise, a pump-out (or siphon) tube must be used to remove water. Water standing at the bottom of the pot over a long period will harm the plant, and may eventually break down the interior waterproofing material. **Water standing at the bottom of pots and planters in cold climates will typically lead to freeze/thaw breakage, which is not covered by the standard warranty.**
- Tournesol Siteworks GFRG products are designed to withstand the elements. However, they can still scratch, crack or chip if abused.
- Take care not to push or pull full-planted pots by the top lip.
- Smooth Surface Texture Cleaning (Travertine, Sandblast, Acid Etch) - Clean GFRG products with soap and water applied by a bristle brush. Products should be well rinsed to wash away soap and grease. Do not scrub with abrasives or wire brushes (wire residue may rust on surface). Do not clean graffiti-painted surfaces with solvent – it may be absorbed into the concrete surface.
- Rough Surface Texture Cleaning (Natural Sand, Granite, Fine Grain) – Clean similarly to the smooth surface finishes but with a bristle brush to get into the facets of the textured surface. Hard scrubbing may remove the sand coating. Products should be well rinsed to wash away soap and grease out of the textured surface.

Tournesol Siteworks' Limited Three-Year Warranty

Tournesol Siteworks, LLC warrants to the initial purchaser of its products that they will repair or replace product that contains a defect in material or workmanship for a period of three years from the date it is delivered to the initial purchaser.

This limited warranty does not include those parts which fall under standard regular maintenance of the planter, including but not limited to parts which are subject to periodic replacement. The warranty does not apply to conditions resulting from misuse, abuse, failure to follow directions for use, unauthorized modifications, neglect, accident or other hazard or the like. **The remedy under this warranty is limited to repair or replacement, at Tournesol Siteworks' option, of the defective parts of the warranted product.** Repair or replacement of a part does not extend the warranty beyond the initial warranty period.

This is the only written warranty applicable to the product. The duration of the implied warranty on the product is limited to the three year duration of this express warranty. **In no event shall Tournesol Siteworks be liable for any incidental or consequential damages, including but not limited to damage to any plants which may have been planted in the product.** Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts or the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitations or exclusions may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights which may vary from state to state.