

# Maintain it **CLEAN** & **FREE** from the **GREEN**

What do low maintenance products all have in common? **Maintenance!**

**“Maintain means to preserve from failure or decline.” Cleaning is to home maintenance; what toothpaste and brushing is to teeth. Cleaning is the number one issue identified by the SR Community Standards Advisors in their property inspections each year.**

Have you ever parked your freshly cleaned car on your driveway, jumped on a plane for two weeks of relaxation and returned to find a not-so clean car? In your imagination extend that trip to a full year and substitute your house for the car. You know where we’re going right? One year of dirt, grime, mildew, algae, bird droppings even spider webs have built up.

Mildew and algae feed on sugars, dust, dirt, etc. that are attached to the siding or other surface. Don’t lose your spleen or make a scene, just count to nineteen and then CLEAN that green.

How do I get rid of the mildew and algae? A quick search of the internet and you’ll find there are numerous products, tools and professionals suitable for the task. We summarized a few of the most frequently mentioned methods and products on the next page.\*

You may also wish to hire a contractor who has a proven track record and the necessary tools and solutions at their disposal. The advertising directory of this magazine is a good place to start.

\*The material and information contained in this article is for general information purposes only. We make no representations or warranties of any kind with the cleaning methods, tools, solutions or professionals referenced in this article. Follow all product instructions for safety precautions and proper usage.

\*\*Sources include [urbanturnip.org](http://urbanturnip.org), [cleanhomeguide.com](http://cleanhomeguide.com) and [bestreviewsguide.com](http://bestreviewsguide.com)

\*\*\*Small electric power washers with a starting cost of \$150 are available at your local home improvement store or online retailers.

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<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>TOOLS</b> <i>IN ADDITION TO SAFETY GOGGLES, MASK AND RUBBER GLOVES</i>	<b>BEST SOLUTIONS**</b> <i>BEST PRACTICE IS TO TEST A SMALL AREA FIRST</i>
<b>GREEN VINYL SIDING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power or pressure washer***</li> <li>• Garden hose</li> <li>• Pump sprayer</li> <li>• Brush pole</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxygen bleach &amp; cleaning solution</li> <li>• 1/3 cup powdered laundry detergent, 2/3 cup powdered household cleaner, 1 quart liquid laundry bleach and 1 gallon of water</li> <li>• 70% water, 30% vinegar solution</li> <li>• Simple Green</li> <li>• Mold Armor House Wash</li> <li>• Star Brite</li> <li>• Wet and Forget</li> <li>• Krud Kutter</li> </ul>
<b>CONCRETE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power washer</li> <li>• Garden hose</li> <li>• Pump sprayer</li> <li>• Bristle brush</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ½ cup baking soda to 1 gallon of water + 1/8 cup of liquid dish detergent</li> <li>• Simple Green</li> <li>• 30 Seconds Outdoor Cleaner</li> </ul>
<b>RUST ON CONCRETE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bristle brush</li> <li>• Garden hose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CLR</li> <li>• Iron Out</li> <li>• Goof Off Rust Stain Remover</li> <li>• Instant Rust Out</li> </ul>




**EFFLORESCENCE** might be the **WHITE** “stuff or stains” on your brick. Many professionals write that all it takes is a bristle brush for removal.