



**OUTBACK
SLEEPERS
AUSTRALIA**



Product Care Guide



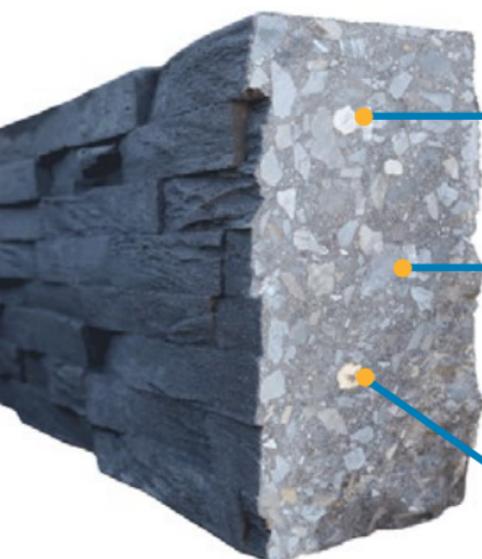
QUALITY. STRENGTH. SERVICE.

At Outback Sleepers Australia 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 Outback Sleepers Australia's products.

Not all Concrete Sleepers are the same.



Reinforcing Bars (Reo Bars)

All our sleepers have 2 x N10 Reinforcement bars throughout.

*Cribs have 1 x N10 Reinforcement bar

50 Year Product Lifespan

We manufacture our sleepers to the Australian Standard AS3600/2018, which means that our sleepers are designed for a 50-year product lifespan.

Exceptional Strength

Industry leading concrete strength of 60MPa.

*50% stronger than 40MPa concrete (based on equivalent dimensions).

Outback Sleepers Australia (OSA) manufactures all our products with an industry-leading **60MPa concrete strength** easily surpassing the strength of all other concrete sleepers that are available on the market.

Our concrete sleepers are **Engineered** to build retaining walls up to 4m high using a combination of our STD, HD and EHD concrete sleepers.

Not only do we make the strongest concrete sleepers in Australia, we also offer a **35-Year Product Warranty** on our 2m and 2.4m concrete sleepers (*T & C's apply*).

To meet current Australian Standards (AS3600/2018) **ALL** concrete sleepers must have a **50-year Lifespan** design. So when using OSA's concrete sleepers you have peace of mind knowing that they will be the only concrete sleepers you will ever need.

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 guides in our Product Guide on how to build your retaining wall.
- ✓ **DO** use plastic (Forticon) behind the sleepers before backfilling the wall. *If plastic is not used, then Efflorescence may occur if excess water gets behind the sleepers.*
- ✓ **DO** use an Agi drain at the base of the wall to allow drainage.

DON'T's.

- ✗ **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 / UFP's. *Pressure hoses can open up the capillaries in the concrete which can lead to Efflorescence.*
- ✗ **DO NOT** subject the concrete sleepers / UFP's to excessive water hitting the face from a sprinkler system.
- ✗ **DO NOT** use any chemical solutions to clean the sleepers (other than Efflorescence Remover).



Cleaning Concrete Sleepers & UFP's.

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.

Cutting Sleepers & UFP's.

When cutting our products please adhere to the following points to ensure best practice.

- Quick Cut Saws with a Masonry or Diamond blade are most commonly used when cutting sleepers and UFP's on site.
- **ENSURE** that you wash the cut end of the sleeper with a light garden hose to remove the surplus by-product that generates when cutting concrete products. **DO NOT** use a pressure hose to wash the sleeper.
- Cover the now exposed Reo Bars with Cold Galv Spray to protect the Reo Bars inside to prolong the life of the sleeper.

PLEASE NOTE: Cut sleepers are void from our Product Warranty or any issues arising from the product.

Efflorescence.

What is Efflorescence?

Efflorescence is the formation of salt deposits (typically white) that can occur on the surface of all concrete products. Efflorescence is generally harmless with the main side effect being a change in the appearance of the product. Over time, efflorescence can become less noticeable and it is typically more noticeable in the winter months.

How to Remove Efflorescence

Generally, efflorescence will weather away naturally within one or two years. If immediate removal is required, this can be achieved by purchasing an Efflorescence Remover which can be purchased at most major hardware stores. Always follow the instructions and guidelines on the product label and always trial on a small area first.

Efflorescence is a natural process which is generally harmless and of no risk to the integrity of the concrete products. Whilst Efflorescence can be unsightly and detract from the aesthetics of the product, it is part and parcel of using concrete products.

Below: examples of Efflorescence due to excessive water hitting the concrete sleepers from a sprinkler system.



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 – OSA 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 OSA within 7 days of the despatched delivery date. OSA 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 [35-Year Product Warranty](#).

Deliveries.

Delivery is typically via a Semi-Trailer and unloaded onto the site using an All-Terrain forklift such as a Manitou.

Deliveries are always kerbside as standard, however we will always do our best to deliver your sleepers to the desired location on site. Unfortunately, this is not always possible due to site conditions, wet weather, access etc and it is always the driver's final call.

It is the responsibility of the site owner to provide a safe and accessible passage onto the site. This is normally achieved by using rubble to create a pathway if the site is particularly wet and boggy.

If the delivery driver decides to enter a particularly muddy site, then the roadway may need cleaning afterwards by the site owner / contractors. The driver will notify the site contact if this is required to prevent vehicle accidents and local council fines.

Contact Us.

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