

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

REMOVING PAINT SPOTS AND STAINS FROM STONE AND CEMENT PAVEMENTS.

H.L.R., Delavan, Wis., says: How can I take paint spots and stains off a cement walk and stone? I have used muriatic acid, which seemed to take out the oil, but did not soften the white lead. Have also used caustic soda and lye, but without success.

Answer: Muriatic acid is not a good medium for removing paint, although it should have dissolved your white lead, if the paint was pure white lead. Nor was your caustic soda and lye strong enough. Make two solutions, as follows:

1. Place one-half pound of lime in a suitable vessel and slake the same with as little water as is required; then add one-half pound of caustic soda (98 per cent.) and one quart of water. Stir a while, and let stand to cool.

2. In another vessel slake one pound of quicklime with as little water as is necessary to make it fall into a powder, then add one quart water. Cover the vessel and let stand to cool down.

When the heat is well off, strain both solutions through a paint strainer; then mix the two, stirring well.

Now, boil one-half pound wheat flour in one quart of water to a thick paste, but have no lumps in the same.

While still hot, under constant stirring, in order to prevent lumping, slowly pour the combined solutions, No. 1 and No. 2, into the paste, and when cool you will have a medium stiff paste, which will, when applied to the thickness of one-sixteenth of an inch remove any oil or varnish paint in from 30 to 45 minutes, from wood, iron, cement or stone. When the paint is removed, the surface should be immediately washed with strong vinegar or acetic acid, to destroy any caustic matter. If the wood is somewhat discolored, it may be bleached with a strong solution of oxalic acid in water. Great care must be taken in preparing the material to prevent it from coming in contact with face and hands. Should be applied with trowels, or fibre brushes, or cotton waste swabs, as it will destroy bristle brushes in short order.

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SUIT AFFECTING MUNICIPALITIES.

Mr. Justice Street, Toronto, has reserved judgment in a special case in Toronto regarding the rights of the Bell Telephone Company and one which involves the rights of all municipalities in the country. The company claims that under its Dominion charter it has a right to use the public highways throughout the country and in all municipalities even without their consent for local business. The city's case is that the company had no right to construct, erect and maintain a line or lines of telephone along the sides or under any public highways, etc., to carry on a local telephone business in the city without first getting the consent of the municipal council. The city further contends that the statutes of the parliament of Canada above referred to do not confer upon the company the powers contended for by the company. But if they purport to confer such powers, they are to that extent ultra-vires.

BUSINESS NOTES.

Bennett & Moncel, electrical contractors, Montreal, have registered partnership.

A. Roy has registered proprietor of the business of Roy, Eusebe & Company, contractors, Montreal.

Oakley & Holmes, stone contractors, Toronto, have dissolved partnership, Frederick Holmes continuing.

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