



Care of Your New Concrete

Congratulations on your new concrete project. We are pleased that you have chosen us as your contractor and confident that these facts and recommendations* will answer your questions for a longer lasting driveway.

One of the best attributes of concrete is how little maintenance and routine care it will need over its life-time. But no driveway paving material—including concrete—is truly maintenance-free. Here are some tips for preserving the life and appearance of your investment.

Quick Tips

- Do not apply de-icing chemicals for snow and ice removal during the first winter. To provide traction, sand is recommended.
- Never apply deicers containing ammonium sulphate or ammonium nitrate. These products may be packaged and sold as de-icers, but aggressively attack and deteriorate concrete surfaces.
- For stain removal, do not use harsh acids. Use a product specifically designed for the stain in question and for use on concrete. Keep concrete clean of snow and ice at all times.

Complete Care

Avoid using de-icing chemicals. Using de-icers on your concrete driveway in the winter can cause surface damage—primarily scaling and spalling—by forcing the thawing and refreezing of moisture. Products containing ammonium nitrates and ammonium sulphates are especially harmful because they will actually attack the concrete chemically. Rock salt (sodium chloride) or calcium chloride will do less damage, but they can harm vegetation and corrode metal. Avoid the use of any deicers the first winter after driveway placement, since new concrete is more susceptible to the harmful effects of salt. As an alternative, use sand for traction.

Remove stains immediately. While a sealer will help to protect concrete from stain absorption, it's still a good idea to remove oil, gasoline, grease and other spills as soon as possible. If the concrete does discolor, pressure washing and certain cleaning chemicals will help remove most stains.

Consider cleaning and re-applying sealer on a regular basis. Cleaning your concrete driveway on occasion and keeping it sealed are the best measures you can take to keep it looking its best. How often you clean and reseal will depend on the weather conditions the concrete is exposed to and the amount of vehicle traffic it receives. Generally, you should reseal a concrete driveway every two years or so, or when the finish begins to show wear. Good commercial sealers are available from concrete material suppliers and hardware stores. Or ask your contractor for recommendations. Always apply the sealer according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

Treat it with care. Although concrete is one of the most durable paving materials for driveway construction, the typical residential driveway isn't engineered to support heavy vehicles (like a huge moving van) and large construction equipment. Also use care when plowing or shoveling your driveway. Avoid the use of metal blades that might scrape or scratch the surface.

* These are suggestions only. We do not recommend using any products without first consulting a professional and completely following the manufacturers directions. When applying any sealers you should take in to consideration any other sealer or materials that have been applied to the surface.