

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Proper care and maintenance of concrete pavers will ensure their longevity and aesthetic appeal. This guide outlines the necessary steps to maintain your pavers, including weekly and semiannual routines, as well as specific procedures for handling stains.

1. GENERAL CLEANING

Always test cleaning products or equipment on spare pavers if available or in an inconspicuous area to prevent damage and ensure they are suitable for concrete terrazzo pavers.

Please be sure to follow the product manufacturer's instructions regarding the use of any equipment or cleaning materials described here.

After applying a cleaning product, ensure it is thoroughly rinsed off and directed to proper drainage areas.

1.1. Weekly Maintenance

- **Sweeping and Washing:** Regularly sweep and wash the deck or driveway to remove debris and prevent staining. Use a hose to spray away grime, avoiding direct spray into the joints to prevent sand displacement. High-traffic areas may require more frequent cleaning.
- **Stain Removal:** For stains, use a mild detergent mixed with water and scrub with a nylon brush. Always test the cleaning solution on an inconspicuous area first to ensure it does not damage the pavers. Rinse thoroughly after cleaning.

1.2. Semiannual Maintenance

- **Power Sweeping and Pressure Washing:** Sweep the surface and use a pressure washer to clean the entire area. Be cautious with the pressure to avoid damaging the pavers and joints. Angle the spray appropriately and use minimal pressure needed for cleaning.
- **Inspection and Repairs:** Check for rocking, low or high edges, joint spacing, alignment, and any broken or chipped pavers. Adjust, level pavers and re-grout or re-sand any eroded joints as needed.

2. STAIN TREATMENTS

Foot Traffic, Road Salts, and Everyday Use: Wash thoroughly with a hot water high-pressure washer. For heavily soiled areas, use a commercial-grade cleaner and scrub with a nylon brush.

Soil: Soil should be cleaned promptly to prevent permanent staining. On heavily soiled areas, apply a commercial-grade cleaner and use a nylon brush to scrub the surface. Rinse thoroughly to remove all residues. The appropriate cleaning method for soil caused stains depends on the type of soil ingredient causing it.

Leaf and Plant: Plants can also cause stains when leaves, green parts, bark, flowers, etc. fall on paving units. It is recommended that sweeping or blowing the leaves and plant droppings off your

TOPAZ PRECAST PAVERS & POOL COPINGS

paver surface regularly is your best defense. Apply household bleach and scrub with a stiff bristled brush.

Oil or Petroleum Products: Use a hot water high-pressure washer to remove as much material as possible. Apply a degreaser, scrub with a stiff nylon brush, and rinse thoroughly. Multiple cleanings may be necessary.

Rust Stains: Soak the area with water and use masonry cleaner products according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Be cautious around metal surfaces.

Gum or Tar: Apply dry ice directly on the gum or tar, then use a putty knife or scraper to remove it. Commercial gum removers can also be used.

Tobacco Stains: After pressure washing, use household bleach on a paper towel, cover the stain, and leave for 24-48 hours. Repeat if necessary.

Sun Screen and Lotions: To address greasy stains around pool entrances caused by excess sunscreen or other body lotions use a degreaser and follow the manufacturer's instructions for application.

Efflorescence: Efflorescence is a white, powdery substance that can sometimes appear on concrete or clay products. Efflorescence will naturally wash and wear off over time. The best approach is to allow this natural process to occur. However, if you want to accelerate the removal, you can wash the pavers with a mild cleaning solution. It is recommended to test the solution on a small, inconspicuous area first to ensure the results are acceptable, as the cleaning solution may expose the aggregate on the paver's surface and affect the color.

3. SEALING

Users may prefer to seal their pavers and copings for better preservation and stain protection especially for lighter colored ranges.

Remove any stains with specialized cleaning agents and clean the paving area thoroughly with a general cleaner before sealing. Ensure that pavers and joints are completely dry, clean, and free from oil, grease, dust, dirt, sand, efflorescence, and frost before applying a sealer. Avoid sealing when temperatures are below 50°F.

Please refer to manufacturer's guidelines and consult manufacturers before sealing or applying surface film protection. Certain families of sealers, films, epoxy, etc. inhibit breathing of pavers blocking air and vapor which might cause efflorescence.