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Caring For **CONCRETE PAVERS**

Introduction

To ensure maximum protection for your pavers Boral recommends the following tips and instructions for:

- 1) Sealing pavers
- 2) Cleaning and removing stains
- 3) Replacing pavers



Aspenstone® Cappuccino

1) Sealing Pavers

When caring for pavers, it's good to follow the old age adage, 'prevention is better than cure'. For this reason Boral recommends sealing pavers with a penetrative sealant shortly after installation.

There are a number of benefits of sealing pavers including:

- To stabilise the jointing sand.
- To minimise staining of the surface. Sealants accomplish this by reducing absorption. This makes the pavers less susceptible to staining from things such as oil drippings or from food and drink spillages.
- For aesthetic reasons. Some sealants deepen the colour of the pavers and/or add a glossy sheen.

It should be understood that most sealants will wear away under pedestrian or vehicular traffic and must therefore be renewed periodically to retain their appearance and durability. Depending on the sealant chosen and the abrasion load, coating will have a life of between 1 to 3 years. Always refer to the manufacturer's specifications for more detail.

Choice and Types of Sealants

Boral recommends using a penetrative sealer. As a guide sealants generally fall into 3 main categories. These are:

- a) Silanes and Siloxanes.
- b) Acrylics.
- c) Urethanes.

Please refer to and consult the sealant manufacturer's guides for more detail to determine which sealant is suitable for your individual project.

TIP

PATCH TEST: If you are unsure of the visual effect of a sealant on your paver, you can apply the sealant to the bottom of your paver and leave it overnight.

Application of Sealants

Before sealing a pavement, it should be thoroughly cleaned and allowed to dry completely. Pavements which exhibit efflorescence should not be sealed until this issue is remedied. Care must be taken to avoid wind-borne spray carrying beyond the pavement.

Sealing and routine cleaning will assist in preserving the look of your pavers over time.

2) Cleaning and Stain Removal

Sealing and routine cleaning will assist in preserving the look of your pavers over time.

Routine Cleaning

Although pavers can be routinely cleaned, precautions must be taken during the very early life of the pavement to avoid removing the jointing sand. In particular, unless the pavement has been sealed, the use of vacuum sweepers and water jets should be avoided until the joints have become naturally clogged with

debris. This normally occurs once the pavements have been open to traffic for two to three months. Until this occurs, it is prudent to operate sweepers without vacuum using their brushes only. Once the joints have become naturally clogged vacuum sweepers and water jets can normally be used without problem.

Stain Removal

What happens when pavers are stained by food, drink or natural elements?

Here is a quick sequential guide for removing stains:

- Remove the worst stains first.
- Where abrasives, detergents or chemicals are used, ensure that all residues are immediately removed from the pavement surface.
- Do not allow liquid runoff to collect on the pavement surface or in the drains.
- Clean the entire pavement surface so that any colour variation is evenly distributed.

Where persistent stains do occur, they can be removed using a variety of chemicals and proprietary cleansing agents. These must be chosen with regard to occupational health and safety and the environmental impacts of their use.

Types Of Stains and Methods Of Removal

The types of stains and methods of removal set out in Table 1 are for general guidance only. Stain removal is seldom accomplished without visible and often permanent changes to the colour and texture of the pavers.

TIP

Don't forget to top up paving grout or grouting sand lost between any joint gaps following cleaning.

Table 1: Methods Of Stain Removal

WARNING – WHEN USING CHEMICALS

- The use of acids and chemically-based cleaning agents should be undertaken by a professional as they can be hazardous if used incorrectly.
- Read supplier's instructions before use.
- Observe safety advice and recommended dilution rates.
- Wear suitable protective clothing at all times and work only in well-ventilated areas.

Source	Type of Stain	Action
Plant, animal and vegetable matter	Moss, fungi and mould	Dry brushing with or without application of clean sharp sand OR High pressure water jetting with or without detergent OR Apply fungicides (note that some fungicides may discolour pavers).
	Leaf mould	Dry brushing with or without application of clean sharp sand OR High pressure water jetting with or without detergent OR Apply fungicides (note that some fungicides may discolour pavers).
	Wood rot	Use ordinary bleach or calcium chloride followed by sodium hypochlorite dissolved in water (1kg in 5 litres) then scrub with stiff brush.
	Linseed oil	Use trisodium phosphate/sodium perborate dissolved in hot water.
	Tobacco	Use ordinary bleach then scrub with stiff brush.
	Smoke	Scrub with poultice of talc and bleach diluted in water (1:5) and wash with water.
	Blood	Apply liquid detergent for 15 to 20 minutes, scrub with hot water and rinse surface.
Food	Mustard, tomato sauce and grease	Use liquid detergent and hot water. For stubborn stains apply undiluted liquid detergent for 15 to 30 minutes, then scrub and wash with hot water.
	Chewing gum	Scrape off excess material and apply poultice of methylated spirit OR Freeze gum with ice, carbon dioxide aerosol, or dry ice then remove by scraping, brushing or applying high-pressure water jets.
Vehicles	Oil or vehicle grease	Apply dry absorbents such as Fuller's earth, talc, diatomaceous earth or kitty litter for 24+ hours to remove excess oil, then sweep up.
	Tyre marks	Scrub using stiff brush with aid of water, detergent and scouring powder or sharp sand.
Construction and building	Bitumen or tar bituminous emulsion	Freeze with ice, carbon dioxide aerosol, or dry ice, remove excess by scraping, scrub with scouring or abrasive powder and thoroughly wash with water.
	Dry paint	Scrape off excess paint, apply paint remover for 15-30 minutes, loosen with gentle scrubbing and absorb loosened material with paper or cloth. Do not rub. Repeat as necessary.
	Fresh mortar	Cover with clean damp sand. Sweep off with stiff broom. Repeat as necessary. Apply clean dry sand and allow to dry.
	Hardened mortar	Remove lumps of hardened material by chiselling, scraping or grinding. Wet the surface then apply dilute hydrochloric acid (1 part acid to 20 parts of water) and scrub vigorously for 2 to 3 minutes. Thoroughly hose down the area immediately after scrubbing.
	Efflorescence	Efflorescence will naturally disappear over time. In the short term, it can be removed with water jetting with proprietary chemicals followed by brushing. Alternatively, weak diluted (1:20) hydrochloric acid cleaners can be used followed by thorough flushing with water.
	Clay	Scrape off lumps then scrub with hot water and strong detergent.

3) Replacing Pavers & Stockpiling

A handy tip is to keep a small stockpile of pavers “just in case” the replacement of a paver due to breakage or staining is required. But remember that pavers weather in service and will therefore develop a different appearance from pavers kept in maintenance stockpiles.

Remember, this information should be viewed as a guide only. The particular circumstances of paving projects vary significantly in ways that often dictate the use of particular materials and

techniques to address challenges presented by those circumstances. Boral urges you to ensure that you obtain appropriate professional advice tailored to your circumstances before commencing paving projects. When working with cement and concrete/mortar or manufactured or prefabricated concrete products, always follow the manufacturer’s instructions and seek advice about working safely with the products from the manufacturer, your nearest WorkCover Authority or Worksafe Australia.

References

Concrete Masonry Association of Australia Limited, “PA04 Concrete Segmental Pavements – Maintenance Guide”, CMAA 2014.

For the full manual and to check for updates go to www.cmaa.com.au.

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Abode® Charcoal

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