

Maintaining Your New Concrete Driveway

One of the best things about a concrete driveway is how little maintenance it needs over its lifetime. Even though just a small amount of routine care is required, no paving material (including concrete) is 100% maintenance-free. Here are some simple tips to help you preserve the life of your concrete driveway.

Clean the driveway and apply sealer as needed

Occasionally cleaning your driveway and keeping it sealed are the #1 ways you can keep it looking its best. How often you should clean and reseal your driveway depends mostly on the weather conditions it's exposed to and the amount (and type) of vehicle traffic it gets.

In general, a concrete driveway should be resealed every two or three years—or when the concrete surface finish starts to show wear. Good commercial concrete driveway sealers are available from most hardware stores, but your best bet is to call us if you have any questions and we'll be glad to give you our recommendation.

Clean-up any stains immediately

Sealers will help your concrete driveway from absorbing stains, but it's best to clean up any oil, gasoline, grease, or other spills as soon as you can. If your concrete driveway does discolor, most stains can be removed by pressure-washing.

Avoid de-icing chemicals

Using de-icers on your driveway in the winter can cause surface damage by forcing the thawing and re-freezing of ice. De-icers containing ammonium nitrates or ammonium sulphates are especially harmful to your driveway because they actually attack the concrete chemically.

Rock salt will do less damage, but it can kill nearby vegetation and can corrode metal. As an alternative, you can use sand for traction. As a general rule, you should avoid using de-icers of any kind during the first winter after your new driveway is installed.

Treat your concrete driveway with care

Concrete is one of the most durable paving materials, but the typical residential driveway isn't designed to support extremely heavy vehicles, like full-size moving vans or large construction equipment. You should also take care when plowing or shoveling your driveway, as metal plow blades can scratch your driveway's surface.