



Hardscape

Paved areas in your property are called hardscape. Within this it could include concrete, concrete pavers, stone, gravel, etc. Wood decks could be considered hardscape as well, but due to their elevated freestanding nature they are of their own classification.

Floating Walk

A floating walkway is a surface consisting of Concrete or Clay pavers, Stone or similar that is set on a sand base with sand in the joints. This surface can and may move during excessive freeze thaw cycles in our climate. The movement generally is negligible and usually sets back down, if it does not it can be repaired easily. All floating walks should have the joints with a water activated polymeric sand to even out gaps and prevent vegetative growth.

Solid Walk

A solid walkway consists of concrete or concrete covered with concrete or clay pavers, stone or similar. The joints should always be in mortared to prevent water seeping under attached material and eroding the connection. This walk rarely moves due to freeze/thaw cycles, but when it does cracking is usually the outcome. Repair solutions are limited and often require larger areas to be repaired than just the problem area. These types of walkways are more costly to repair and install, but usually require less long term maintenance.

Paver Care Instructions

Pavers, either concrete or clay are a very modular manmade product. The coloring is more consistent throughout the product line. Long term care is to replenish sand joints as necessary, if a polymeric jointing sand is used it may only need to be replaced as needed. If play sand or similar is used reapplication can be as often as twice a year. We don't recommend power washing as new sand will need to be reapplied after each application. As well, one can cause uneven discoloration and weathering if done improperly. Solid walkways will have to have the mortar joints checked seasonally, upon failure they will need to be dug out and new applied.

Sealing

We don't recommend sealing your walkway. Although it will give it a matte or shiny finish similar to when they are wet, they also have to be re-applied every 1 to 1½ years. If the sealer is not reapplied on a regular schedule it will begin to flake and peel. Before sealing, your walkway must be cleaned since any stains will be sealed in. You should wait 3 months after date of installation before applying sealers to let any efflorescence fade away; (white streaks of salt can appear on the surface of some manufactured material).

Chemicals

Do not apply harsh or abrasive chemicals to any paved walkway. Clean with a broom and a mild detergent (if necessary) that is safe to your pets, plants and lawn as it will be rinsed away. **DO NOT EVER** use rock salt to manage ice. Not only will it burn the lawn, salts in the soil can be harmful to many plants, but it has long term negative effects on stone and concrete. To manage ice and snow, clean surface as much as possible and use a pet safe product void of any rock salt.