

Paving Stones - Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the benefits of concrete pavers?

Concrete pavers do not crack like asphalt or poured-in-place concrete - each unit has joints that allow for a small amount of movement without cracking.

Concrete pavers are easy to repair and/or replace, especially when repairs are being done to the base or underground utilities. Asphalt, concrete, and stamped concrete can't make this claim.

Resists deterioration from freeze-thaw cycles and deicing salts better than asphalt and better than ordinary poured-in-place concrete.

Snow removal is the same as with other pavements, just plow, shovel or use a snow blower.

Concrete pavers come in many shapes and colors.

Paving stones should last over 30 years, which is much longer than alternative pavements under normal residential use.

2. Is it acceptable to use crusher dust as bedding under concrete pavers?

No. Most crusher dust has too many fine particles that get washed out as water flows through the material, and large stone flakes that break down under repeated loads from tires. These two factors result in settlement and ruts developing in driveways.

Concrete sand is recommended - it's the same sand mixed into concrete pavers and poured, cast-in-place concrete.

3. Do I have to seal my pavers?

Sealing is not essential in many applications, with the exception of areas around swimming pools (sealer provides chemical resistance to pool chemicals).

However, sealing concrete pavers is recommended to enhance and maintain colours, and makes it easier to remove stains and spills. The sealer also helps keep the joint sand in place and in turn prevent weeds and ants.

For details on how to seal your driveway, go to our [HOW TO](#) section.

4. Can dirty or broken stones be replaced?

For dirty stones, one option is to clean them. Brown's Concrete carries several different cleaning products that will remove everything from oil to gum.

Where replacement is preferred, simply scrape out the sand surrounding the stone, remove the dirty or broken stone using a couple of screwdrivers, insert the new stone, replace the jointing sand, and hammer the stone down with a rubber mallet to compact it.

5. Can I colour match old stones when I replace them?

Paving stones usually become faded over time, so it makes it difficult to match the colour over time. Two ways of dealing with this include:

1. When you first install your pavers, place a few extra pieces in a similar setting to your driveway (i.e. same amount of sunlight) so that they can be used when required.
2. Remove stones from the outside edges of your driveway or walkway to use as replacement pieces, and install new stones along the outside edge to act as a border. It is recommended that the new stones along the border be a different but complementary colour so that the colour fading is not as noticeable.