

CARING FOR YOUR CONCRETE

KEEP YOUR CONCRETE LOOKING BRAND NEW.



Proper care is a requirement for long-lasting beauty and wear. Using quality sealers and caution with de-icers are important things to keep in mind when caring for your concrete. The following tips and tricks will serve as your ultimate care guide.

Use a Quality Sealer

Water repellent concrete sealers can help to prevent surface defects from cold weather by keeping water from getting into the concrete slab. New concrete should dry for 30 days after installation prior to applying a concrete sealer. Applying a quality concrete sealer helps maximize protection and lengthens the time between applications. Some sealers, primarily designed for industrial applications, darken or yellow the concrete. Be sure to ask if the sealer discolors the concrete and follow the manufacturer's directions carefully.

Use Caution with De-icers

One of the most damaging things to a new concrete surface is the use of de-icers - especially the first winter. Here are a few guidelines:

- **Avoid using de-icers.**
Some de-icers, such as salt, increase the number of freeze/thaw cycles the concrete must go through, which has the potential of damaging the concrete. De-icers with Ammonium Nitrate or Ammonium Sulphate will rapidly disintegrate concrete. Common garden fertilizers containing these two chemicals, or urea, may cause disintegration as well.
- **Use sand anytime.**
One of the few safe materials to use to make the concrete surface skid resistant is plain sand. This can be purchased at several locations, frequently from your ready mixed concrete producer. Always put safety before the appearance of your driveway, patio or sidewalk.