



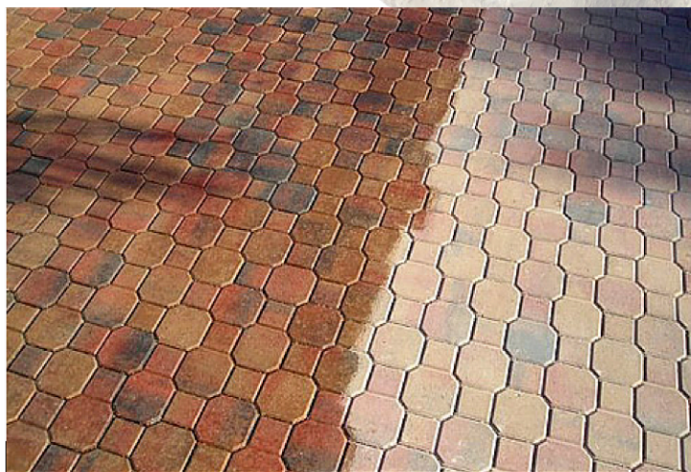
How Beautiful Can Your Pavers Look?

Seasonal cleaning and sealing of your concrete pavers is an inexpensive way to ensure that the original color of the concrete pavers stays vibrant. Sealing can also bring back some of the color of faded pavers by giving them a wet look. Simply cleaning may be enough to really brighten and bring back some of those lost years of wear that has been covered with a layer of dust and grime. Although the benefits of cleaning and sealing far outweigh the troubles become educated on how to clean and seal properly and recognize the simple mistakes that people too often make.

Benefits

#1 - Removing Efflorescence – Efflorescence is a natural occurring reaction that occurs in all concrete products. While this does not effect the durability of pavers it does however effect the overall beauty of a project. Removing efflorescence is a simple process that uses an efflorescence cleaner or “paver prep” to quickly extract and then remove the efflorescence from the exposed parts of the concrete.

#2 – Retain the original color – proper cleaning and sealing of pavers on an annual or semiannual basis using a UV blocking sealer can help prevent the sun's UV rays from fading the color in the concrete pavers. Once the sun has faded a concrete paver there is little that can be done to bring back the paver and we are left with the only option as enhancing what is left. Sadly, people consider cleaning and sealing after they have lost most of the color



which they spent so much time choosing in the first place.

#3 – Protects the concrete pavers from staining – Concrete pavers are manufactured in such a way that they are extremely strong and durable (4 times stronger than regular concrete), but they have a semi-porous top. Liquids and fine dust particles are able to settle into the surface of the pavers and become very hard to remove without some type of cleaning agent. Correctly sealed pavers can partially fill those pores and help protect against oil stains from vehicles, food stains around a BBQ or patio, and from most general liquid and fine powder products that tend to get used/spilled around patios and driveways.

Mistakes

#1- power washing - inexperienced people who power wash with a wand can “etch” the pavers and also do more damage to the surface of the concrete paver. If you're going to use a power washer make sure that you are using a rotating wand attachment that will keep you from etching the pavers.

#2 - using the wrong product – most people incorrectly assume that concrete pavers are simply concrete and any concrete cleaner or sealer can be used on them. WRONG!!! A concrete patio while it is made with concrete is a totally different process then concrete pavers are made by. By not using the concrete paver product you jeopardize the entire look of the patio.

#3 - washing dry pavers – soap in its concentrate form can also etch the pavers. If you are simply going to wash down the pavers gently spray or mist the pavers to get them wet and separately mix up a cleaner and water solution and when it is diluted correctly apply, scrub, and immediately rinse.

Making our working environment safer

In support of our company vision (enabling us to better the life of our most valuable asset, our employees) six months ago Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health (ADOSH) came into our company to perform a voluntary audit. This audit consisted of our facility, working conditions, overall safety program and procedures. We were extremely happy at the outcome of no major violations and we now have several new ways to help our employees work smarter and more safely. Also this past month we were able to continue our certified training for CPR/ First Aide. Both Jon Tacket



and Aaron Wolfe renewed their certification through the Red Cross. This should enable us to quickly deal with issues that we might encounter in our day to day work environment. While all of these types of safety issues are not the first things that come to our minds, we need to become more aware that the families of our workers are not just relying on Wickenburg Landscape for a paycheck they are entrusting their safety to us every day. A well-run company who utilizes a safety program is statistically a safer company and safer companies cost less to insure, which enable them to more sensibly control their costs. In today's society safety needs to be a topic that we are all aware of, and working together we can create both a safer workplace and offer the peace and security that being safe bring to us all.



An overview of 2013's recognitions

This past season has been extremely challenging and at the same time very rewarding. Over this past year Wickenburg Landscape has been recognized with awards in landscape, maintenance, and charity within our community. I have chosen to summarize each of these

recognitions during a monthly newsletter article. I would also like to take this time to thank each of our clients who allow us to enter their projects for recognition. Finally I would like to thank each of our dedicated employees who take my dreams and visions and turn them into reality. Without you much of these successes would never have taken place.



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