

## What is hardscape?

Hardscape is the inanimate elements of a landscape – or hard materials that include but not limited to:

- Concrete
  - Hard cast
  - Soft cast
  - Tumbled
- Pavers
  - Flagstone
  - Boulders
- Natural Stone

Uses:

- Retaining walls
- Patios
- Walkways
- Driveways
- Steps
- Fire pits
- Pool decking
- Accents & focal points



## Why are you here?

- What is hardscape?
- To learn about hardscape installation and maintenance.
- To find out what cleaning, joint stabilizing and sealing of hardscapes is all about.
- I've had a problem with my hardscape and am seeking a solution.
- To learn about new products and techniques to maintain my hardscape.



### Concrete Walkway

Durable | Low Maintenance | Cost Effective | Clean | Environmentally Friendly  
Vast array of finishes and colors including stamped patterns, engraving and exposed aggregate





**Pavers : Hard cast, Soft cast**

Replicates the look of natural stone | Wide array of colors  
Create patterns & designs  
More cost effective than natural stone | Ease of installation




**Hardscape examples**

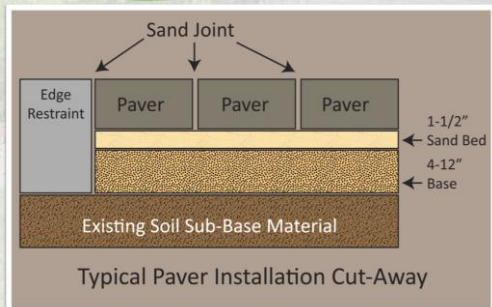


**Natural Stone**

Durable | Varied shapes bring character to a project | Naturally non-slip  
Low maintenance | Can be incorporated with man-made pavers



**Paver Installation**



Typical Paver Installation Cut-Away

## It's all about the base

No matter what the hardscape its the layers underneath that provide stability

- Level of compaction of the substrate(ground underneath) should be at 98% compaction
- Rock material (CA6) - 3/4" limestone mixed with limestone fines - very compactable
- Patios = 5-8" deep, drives = 10-14" deep
- 8" edge for good edge restraint



## Joint Stabilizing/Polymeric Sand

The joints between pavers are filled with sand in order to maintain a uniform spacing between individual pavers, prevent structural erosion and deter weeds and insects.

- Recommended for joints up to 3/4" wide
- Applications: concrete pavers, natural stone & cast stone
- A polymer is used to harden and strengthen the sand.

## Paver Installation



- set up pipes for level and slope
- slope of 1 inch for every 10 feet
- 1 inch thick and no more
- compact pavers into sand base after completion - this help pavers settle in the sand and keeps them stable
- the slightest dip or bump in the sand will cause the paver to do the same

## Joint Stabilizing/Polymeric Sand



Sweep jointing material thoroughly into hardscape joints

### Paver Repair



Examples of damaged or improperly installed pavers

### Day of Cleaning

- Remove furniture, kids and pets from surface
- Shut off irrigation system
- Protect vegetation as needed
- Sweep/blow off loose soil and debris
- Repair surface and make any needed improvements
- General cleaning and efflorescence removal
- Allow to dry a minimum of 24 hours

### Cleaners

Cleaners remove offending stains or foreign substances from a hardscape surface

- General purpose
- Strippers
- Specialty
  - Oil stain cleaner
  - Efflorescence, mineral and salt cleaner

### Sealers : The Paver Savers



We cannot overstate the importance of maintaining your patios. Since 1998 over 7.4 billion square feet of concrete pavers have been installed in the U.S. That's amazing - and that doesn't even include concrete or natural stone patios or drives. But did you know that only 5% of them have been sealed and are properly maintained.

## Sealers

Sealing your pavers will protect and enhance the color while stopping water and salt damage to the surface.

- Protect the substrate from
  - Staining
  - Water & salt infiltration
  - Corrosion & degradation
- Enhance
  - Darken the substrate
  - Bring out the color
- Stabilize the joint sand
  - Prevent structural erosion
  - Deter weeds & insects



## Day of Sealing

- Ensure pavers and joint sand are completely dry
- Minimum temperature of 45 degrees for 24 hours prior to sealing maximum surface temperature not to exceed 90 degrees
- No moisture for at least 24 hours after installation
- Do not walk or drive on surface for 24 hours after application
- Always test sealer in an inconspicuous place – this is especially important with natural stone or hard cast pavers

## Sealers

- Water based
  - Low VOC formula
  - Considered to be more “green”
  - Tend to cure lower gloss/matte finish
  - Water clean-up
- Solvent based
  - Some are low VOC formulas
  - Develop deep rich enhancement
  - Solvent clean-up
- Always test pavement to see if it has been previously sealed

Do you have any questions?

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