

# Block Paving

## **Cleaning**

A sweep with a stiff broom and water is usually enough to prevent build up of dirt, we recommend this is done on a regular basis to ensure the particles are removed before there is a chance of staining or damaging the paving.

The occasional use of a block paving wash will further enhance appearance, but please use sparingly as it may adversely affect the long-term durability of your paving and care must be taken that the products you purchase are not based on or include hydrochloric acid – as this can damage the surface of the paving, make the existing stain worse or create a new stain! Check with your local garden centre for advice on suitable products.

Thoroughly clean any stains such as alcohol, barbeque fat or bird droppings. Always test a small area first before cleaning your whole block paved area

## **How often should I clean my patio?**

Regular washing and brushing should be enough to keep your paving in pristine condition.

## **Can I use an acid based cleaner?**

We do not recommend this type of cleaner. Jointing materials may potentially stain/change colour when directly exposed to acid based cleaners. We recommend testing on a small discreet area first.

## **Can I use a pressure washer to clean my patio?**

We do not recommend the regular use of jet/power washers as this may affect the surface of the product or the grouting over time.

## **Can I use salt to de-ice my paving?**

No, because during freezing and thawing conditions, the use of salt can affect both the durability and the look of the paving. You should use a plastic shovel or stiff brush to remove snow and ice.

## **Sealing your paving**

Sealants can be used on your block paving. However, please check the sealant manufacturer's instructions to ensure it is suitable for sealing paving.

Please note: Applying sealant to paving may affect the colour. Sealants are not required to ensure durability of the product. Sealants can be applied for various reasons – i.e. ease of cleaning, colour enhancement and matt/gloss appearance.

*o It is important to use the correct sealant for the product material – concrete, natural sandstone, block paving, granite etc.*

*o Sealants should not as a rule, be applied until after the paving has been laid for at least six months*

*o It's vital to use a good quality sealant and apply as per the manufacturer's instructions. Remember, once applied it can't be removed.*

## **Weeding**

Weed seedlings are generally airborne, it is almost impossible for them to grow up through a subbase and laying course. They instead set seed in small joints, especially block paving. If weeds do start to grow, pull them up from the root. Grab or pinch the base of the weed to remove as much as possible. For wider gaps between brick patio joints, dig the weed up using your hands or a small shovel.

We recommend after the removal of weeds that you spread kiln dried sand (which can be purchased from any good builders' merchants) and brush this into the gaps between the blocks – this will lessen the chance of the blocks moving.