

# **Natural Stone Paving (For example Natural sandstone, Limestone)**

## **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 patio 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 patio.

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

Regular washing and brushing should be enough to keep your paving in pristine condition. However, you may wish to clean your patio or driveway using a suitable patio wash. This can enhance its appearance but may affect long-term durability and should only be used sparingly (maximum two or three times during the lifetime of the paving). Please ensure you refer to the manufacturer's instructions.

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

We do not recommend acid based cleaners as jointing materials may potentially stain/change colour when directly exposed to acid based cleaners. We recommend testing on a small discreet area first. Limestone, slate and granite are especially sensitive to cleaners and therefore we do not recommend acid based product for such pavers.

## **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.

## **Can I use a sealant on my natural stone paving?**

Sealants can be used on your natural stone patio. 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.*

**DISCLAIMER: These are general industry guidelines and we can take no responsibility. Always read manufacturer instructions before application.**

