



Concrete is a durable product and proper care and maintenance is required for long lasting beauty and wear.

GENERAL CLEANING

When you clean concrete, the cleaned area will be lighter than the surrounding concrete because surface dirt has been removed. In most cases, cleaning the entire area of concrete will be required. Cleaning methods you can try:

Water/Soap/Ammonia: Firstly try water and scrub with a soft, non-metallic brush. If this method is not effective, add a mild soap to the water, then a stronger soap and if required add ammonia to the soapy water and scrub.

Low pressure water: Low pressure water (2500 p.s.i) cleaning can be used where dirt has not been ground into the surface. Use a flat-fan nozzle so the water shoots out in a fan shape to help pry off surface dirt.

Light duty chemical cleaners: If using a chemical cleaner, test on a small inconspicuous patch of concrete to see how the cleaner works before progressing.

DEEP CLEANING

If the concrete has ground-in dirt, grime, tyre marks, oil spills, grease, and other contaminants, the surface must be penetrated in order to effectively clean the concrete. Deep cleaning methods you can try:

A degreaser: Degreasers penetrate concrete surfaces to soften, lift and remove dirt build-up, tyre marks, grease, oil and other difficult to remove contaminants. When using a degreaser, follow all safety precautions and consult product labels for specific safety instructions.

Acid Etching: In most cases acid etching is a job for the professionals and extreme care must be taken for the workman, the surrounding landscapes and other surfaces. As always, follow all safety precautions when using acid or any other chemical cleaners. Consult product labels for specific safety instructions.

Sealing: Concrete sealers penetrate up to an inch into the porous surface forming an impervious barrier. Sealing not only helps prevent water damage, but it also helps keep stains from soaking into the concrete.

Sealers come in a variety of sheens and looks. Sealer should be applied following the manufacturer's instructions using a paint roller or a garden sprayer. Test a small, inconspicuous area before sealing the whole slab.

If your concrete is exposed to the weather, you will need to reseal every few years.

KEY TIMINGS:

2 days Allow 2 days before walking on the newly poured concrete.

4+ days Keep animals off the surface for at least 4 days so their nails don't dig holes in the freshly dried surface.

3-7 days Don't drive on the new concrete surface for at least 3-7 days after the concrete is poured.

28 days Concrete takes a month to completely dry and hold its strength. During this time it's still possible to pierce, chip or otherwise harm the newly laid surface so care is needed.