

# Guidelines for the maintenance of areas of sandstone paving

Sandstone, Yorkstone and Caithness paving provides a durable, hard wearing surface, but like any other surfacing material, may suffer from staining. Due to the nature of its construction, vegetation may also grow in the joints, or on the paving itself in shaded areas which remain damp. Regular maintenance and good cleaning practices will enhance the overall appearance of the paving in the long term.



## Initial Maintenance

Maintenance requirements are minimal under normal service conditions. If necessary, surfaces may be washed with brush and water or using high pressure hoses. If the latter, care should be taken not to blast away sand in joints.

Note: Do NOT use high pressure jets or suction cleaners for at least 3 months to allow normal detritus build up (considerably longer for paved areas under cover). Alternatively, joint sealants may be considered.

During fixing, or just afterwards, Yorkstone and Sandstone Flooring is generally more hardy than limestone, marble or granite. Its natural constitution lends itself to easy cleaning with a proprietary solution, so any building dirt or leftover reclamation staining may be removed quite satisfactorily with a proprietary chemical solution, if necessary. If you use it before grouting, make sure the surface is well rinsed and bone dry before applying the appropriate impregnator.

Hardscape can supply on request:

- Advice on stain-removal techniques.
- Suitable products.
- Referrals to specialist cleaning companies as appropriate.

Note: Advice and recommendations are subject to the circumstances of specific problems. Removal of stains cannot therefore be guaranteed. Certain cleaning products may be subject to statutory regulations for safe handling and usage (including COSHH and CDM regulations).

## Cleaning of Paving

Natural stone paving is very low maintenance once laid. The pointing is the weakest element and may need to be replaced after a number of years. Sweep regularly with a stiff brush to remove dust and detritus. There is a tendency for algae, lichens and mosses to colonise stone paving that is permanently shaded and/or damp. This can be safely removed by a

pressure washer. Freshly sawn rough Sandstone, Yorkstone and Caithness flooring will generally require a little more maintenance than reclaimed Sandstone, Yorkstone and Caithness flags.

The surfaces of reclaimed flags will be very smooth due to 100 years or more of wear and maintenance before reclamation. There's a number of proprietary solutions that can be used to clean, seal and maintain the appearance of Yorkstone/Sandstone paving units for which Hardscape can advise on.

## Winter Maintenance

During Winter conditions, despite their effective ability to dissolve and loosen ice or snow from cold surfaces, salts and de-icing agents can have detrimental affects to the appearance of sandstone paving. Spalling, scaling or pitting is a common problem that often occurs after the application of de-icing salts over sandstone surfaces. The only product recommended for de-icing purposes is the use of regular sand as it is safe and effective and will not affect the integrity of the paving stone.



## Health and Safety

Some of the cleaning methods described above involve the use of chemicals, which may be damaging or dangerous if not used in the correct manner.

It is important that safety warnings issued by the manufacturers of the chemicals should be read carefully and strictly adhered to.

In general, the following precautions should be taken:

- When using chemicals, protective clothing such as gloves, goggles, boots and overalls should be worn.
- Ensure there is adequate ventilation in confined spaces.
- When using flammable materials, ban the use of cigarettes, naked flames and other sources of ignition in the immediate vicinity.
- When diluting acids, always add acid to water and not water to acid.
- Dispose of safely any clothing which is contaminated with chemicals.
- Ensure care is taken not to damage, contaminate or stain any adjoining material.
- Protect personnel operating near the area to be cleaned from any injury or hazard created by the cleaning.
- Whenever possible care should be taken to ensure that the disposal of 'run-off' materials containing chemicals does not harm personnel, animals or any part of the environment.
- Trials should be carried out on a small, preferably inconspicuous, area of paving to determine the effect of the chemicals before treating a larger area.

**PLEASE NOTE** – Any advice, recommendation or representation given by an employee of Hardscape Products Ltd shall not be made liable and therefore acted upon entirely at the Customer's own risk.

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