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Guidelines for the maintenance of areas of Classic Modular block and flag paving

Classic modular block and flag paving provides a sound, durable and visually pleasing surface and finish which should last for many years when installed and maintained correctly.

Initial Maintenance

Paving should be kept clean and free from detritus to retain its aesthetic appeal. The most effective and suitable method to clean paving is regular sweeping by hand. Where further cleaning is required, this should be done with a stiff brush and hot water and a mild detergent if required. If paving is cleaned regularly there will be no need for power-washing or chemicals which may degrade the surface with continued use. Cleaning with a brush and water will generally not wash the sand from the joints.

Kilsaran recommend that to aid cleaning and maintenance paving should be sealed with a suitable sealing product, such as our Kilsaran Paving Sealer product.

The surface should be inspected a few weeks after laying and afterwards one to twice per year and after cleaning to check that the joints are full. My joints which are not full should be topped up (in dry conditions only) with Kilsaran kiln dried jointing sand. Joints which are not adequately filled can allow movement of the pavement and can allow water to wash out underneath the paving and cause settlement of the blocks.

Weeds

Certain types of weeds and grasses can grow in between the joints in a paved surface. This is because the jointing sand will hold a certain amount of moisture and over time detritus builds up in the sand and the weeds will live off this. Usually weeds only grow in areas where the paving receives very little traffic (eg in a quiet corner of the driveway) or if it has been neglected for a period of time. Weeds can be treated relatively easily, they can be removed manually before they become established. Often treating the area with a suitable weedkiller will treat the rest. When using weedkiller it is best to try the selected product and concentration in an inconspicuous area first and make sum it doesn't stain or damage the surface of the paving. Weedkiller should be applied in dry conditions for optimal effect. Where the area being treated has been particularly neglected, a second treatment may be required. The weeds may take some time to die and can then be removed by hand.

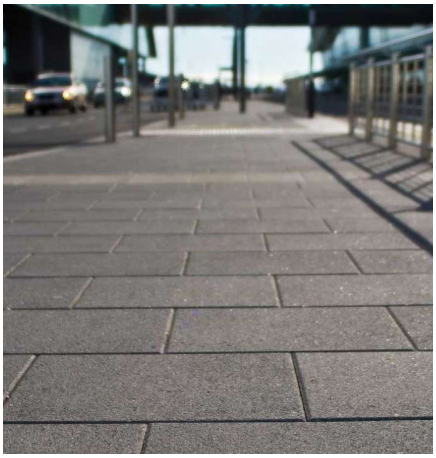
Algae & Moss

Algaes generally form in damp areas and tend to grow in or around the paving joints and may spread over time. Algae is more common with clay bricks than classic modular. Usually seen as a thin green growth on the paving, algae shouldn't be mistaken for moss which tends only to grow in very damp joints. Algae can be treated fairly easily using an appropriate water based fungicide. The colour fastness of the surtace should be checked in a small inconspicuous area before treating the whole area. Sealing the treated pavement will dramatically reduce recurrence and aid future maintenance.

Moss is commonly seen in all areas of gardens and on various types of materials. Moss tends to grow in shaded, damp and unmaintained areas. Typically moss will form in the joints of paved areas where the sand remains damp and nurtures the growth of moss. Moss can be treated again using an appropriate water based fungicide ensuring that it does not stain the surtace, make sum to test first on an inconspicuous area. When the moss had been killed it can be brushed or scraped off and the surface cleaned.

Lichens

Paving which hasn't been cleaned or treated for long periods of time is prone to developing



Lichen growths which can spread over large areas in some cases. This is very common and seen as white or black spots dotted around the paving. It is a fungus which can live off the minerals deposited on the surface and within the paving. This type of growth unlike algae tends to penetrate the surface and the longer its left, the harder it is to remove. Again like algae, a fungicide or bleach is required to treat this and it may take several treatments to kill stubborn deposits. After successful treatment the deposit can be scraped off. It is likely that a good thorough washing of the surface will be required to remove traces of the deposit. After treatment, sealing of the surface will reduce recurrence and aid future maintenance.

Efflorescence

Efflorescence may occur on the surface of paving as a patchy white or milky deposit. In simple terms this occurs as a natural phenomenon where the free lime from the cement used to manufacture paving can react with the moisture and local environment to produce a Calcium Carbonate deposit on the surface. Efflorescence causes no damage to the paving in any may and although deposits can be unsightly, they will disappear over time and more quickly in areas where the paving receives more traffic. Efflorescence is not caused by a problem with the Paving or the manufacture of it. It is naturally occurring and while Kilsaran employ best practice in trying to minimise efflorescence, it is unfortunately not possible to completely eliminate this. There am commercially available acids from DIY retailers which will remove the surface deposit of efflorescence, however these are very harsh on the surface and may cause permanent surface damage. It is best to let efflorescence weather away naturally. Kilsaran would advise against the use of any acid cleaners to remove efflorescence.

General Maintenance

A small amount of regular maintenance is all that is required. Paving in areas which are prone to growth or which don't get much traffic should be treated with a suitable weedkiller or fungicide twice to three times per year to keep growth at bay.

Any cracked or broken units should be replaced and all sand joints should be checked once to twice per year and topped up with Kilsaran Jointing sand as required. Any defective areas should be reviewed against the requirements of BS 7533-3.

Regular brushing and hosing down with water should be all that is required to clean properly maintained paving.

Pressure washing is not recommended by Kilsaran for regular cleaning. This should be reserved for very dirty areas and carried out without using excessive pressure and keeping the lance at a low angle relative to the surface. Joints are likely to need topping up after pressure washing operations.

Cleaning & Maintenance for Heavy Pedestrian Use Areas

For commercial schemes with high footfall and/or increased levels of traffic, the Kilsaran Technical Team can assist with providing a specification for cleaning and maintenance to meet with site specific requirements and product type used on the scheme. Please contact the Kilsaran Technical Team for further assistance.

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 manufacturer 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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