



2110 Market Street, Denver, CO 80205

(720) 336-9627

info@absolutehomegarden.com

Absolute Home & Garden Recommended Care of Stamped Concrete

Please take the time to review the following information regarding your new Stamped Concrete. Maintenance is the sole responsibility of the homeowner. Although concrete is an extremely durable product, the following care and maintenance guidelines will add to the value of your investment and ensure that the concrete surface remains beautiful for decades.

Maintenance Summary

- Keep decorative concrete surfaces sealed
- Use only sand to melt snow (no dry ice or rock salt)
- Keep the plow or snow blower at least 1/2 inch above the surface
- Clean off petro-chemicals immediately
- Allow thinners to stand. Do not wipe off, allow thinner to evaporate.
- If proper expansion joints are installed, cracks may still occur.

Sealing

Cleaning and sealing stamped and colored concrete should be done on a regular basis just like any other home maintenance. The frequency will depend on how high a traffic area to cars, foot traffic, water, and any chemicals the concrete is exposed to. We recommend resealing every 2 or 3 years. If you wait longer, you may notice that the color may fade slightly. To determine if you need to protect your concrete product, perform a splash test. Sprinkle water on the concrete surface, if the water is absorbed and makes the surface noticeably darker, the surface is not waterproof and needs to be resealed. If the water is not absorbed and beads, the concrete is protected. Just like waxing a car, reseal your stamped concrete and the color will be as vibrant as the day it was installed. If color fades, there are ways to renew it, but keeping it sealed is your best defense.

Snow Removal

Sand is the only material we would advise to use to melt snow and increase traction on your snowy or icy Stamped Concrete. Rock salt and dry ice should NOT be used. These melting materials will accelerate the wear on the sealer and can potentially damage the concrete surface. When possible remove snow and ice from your stamped concrete surfaces as soon as possible to minimize the effects of freeze/thaw cycles.

Petro-chemicals

Oils, grease, WD40, and other petroleum based chemicals will affect the surface of concrete. These chemicals will penetrate the sealer and stain the concrete if they are allowed to stand on the surface for a long period of time (2+ hours). If a petro-chemical is spilled on the surface, immediately wipe it clean.

Thinners

Chemicals such as xylene, lacquer thinner, and paint thinner are detrimental to the sealer. These chemicals will absorb into the sealer very quickly and may alter the appearance of the decorative concrete. If a thinner is spilled, do not wipe it off, allow the thinner to evaporate off the surface.

Freeze/Thaw

Exterior concrete are subject to freeze/thaw cycles. Expansion joints are cuts that are made to allow for the expansion and contraction of the concrete slab. The 4 inches of process gravel is responsible for reducing the pressure of frost heaves. Cracks may appear over time if pressure on the concrete slab is not diverted into the expansion cuts. Cracks can appear for no reason at all. Even if all steps in a proper installation are followed, cracks may still appear. The solution is to fill the crack and hide it by using color. That area should then be monitored yearly. Cracks are never repaired, they can only be filled. Once filled, a crack can resurface over time. The time frame can be from 1 year to 10 years. It is dependent on the Earth's movements.

Cleaning

A standard residential garden hose, household soap and a broom scrubber with a medium bristle brush is all you need to clean your Stamped concrete, no need to blast the surface with a power washer. Rinse the surface and follow with a mild soap and water scrub, then use a clean water rinse to make sure all soap suds are eliminated and let the patio dry completely.

Protection

Frequent movement of furniture tends to result in scratches and marks which can mar the surface beauty of your patio. Fixing plastic glides at the bottom of your patio furniture will help in protecting the patio surface. Make sure that flower containers sit in plastic dishes to avoid abrasions on the patio surface.

Resealing Process:

1. Rinse dirt/debris off stamped concrete surface, with a garden hose.
NOTE: It is critical to start with a clean surface.
2. Apply a small amount of liquid dish soap to surface and scrub with a push broom.
3. Rinse well with a garden hose until there is no sign of soap suds.
4. DRY surface completely by using a leaf blower or by waiting 24 hours to air dry.
NOTE: Do NOT Apply Sealer to A Damp / Wet Surface
5. Once the surface is completely dry, apply the sealer as follows:
 - Stir in one jar of Anti-Slip agent (Shark Grip) to a 5 gallon pail of sealer. (Can be purchased at Sherman-Williams).
 - Apply sealer using a THICK NAP Roller Only. The Anti-Slip agent will not transfer through a sprayer. Apply sealer in approximately 2' x 4' sections. This will ensure full coverage without missed spots. Keep stirring sealer while applying to keep the Anti-Skid suspended in the sealer.
6. If needed, a second coat can be applied after the first coat is tack free.

Final Notes on Resealing: You should wait 24 hours before walking on resealed areas. One 5 gallon pail of sealer will cover approximately 750 sq ft. Only seal in temperatures of 45 degrees or above.