

v1.0 **Cleaning & Maintenance Advice**



# General Cleaning & Maintenance Advice

Tobermore manufacture concrete paving products of a consistently high quality for commercial and residential projects. We make all our concrete products in the UK using aggregates from our own quarry and import only the best materials, so you can be satisfied with the quality and traceability of our products. Our paving is extremely hardwearing, has excellent density, durability and colour retention. As with all paving some basic maintenance will be required to keep your paving looking it's best. A regular maintenance regime will ensure your paving looks great for many years.

**Warning:** *EasyClean products should not be pressure washed. Please refer to specific EasyClean information*

## General Cleaning Advice

Simply washing your paving can ensure it always looks great.

To keep your newly installed paving looking at its best at all times and to ensure you get many years of use from your investment, some regular basic cleaning will be required. A lack of cleaning will allow your paving to deteriorate and look dirty, masking its true beauty.

Regular brushing is recommended to remove dirt, leaves and detritus. If the colour of the paving is being masked by dirt and detritus we suggest using hot soapy water and a stiff brush. By doing this you can significantly improve the appearance of the paving. Certain types and colours of paving may require a bit more care and attention than others to ensure they always look great. For example, light coloured paving blocks and flags may emphasize tyre marks, oil spills and dirt more than darker colours. It is likely that these colours will require slightly more maintenance if the overall appearance is to be maintained.

A pressure washer can also be used if required.

**The difference can be amazing!**

## Advice when using a Pressure Washer

Pressure washers are now an everyday household item and when used correctly they can be great for keeping your paving in pristine condition. However, when used aggressively they can cause damage to the paving surface.

A light pressure washer set at medium pressure is generally all that is required to clean general dirt and grime. High pressure should not be used. A trial area should be tested before large scale pressure washing takes place.

Any jointing sand which is removed during pressure washing must be replaced (jointing sand is available from Tobermore and Builders Merchants in 25kg bags).

## General Tips:

- Direct pointing of the lance at the paving should be avoided as this can damage the product and cause the removal of jointing sand.
- Hold the lance at an angle of between 30 and 45 degrees to the paving surface.
- After cleaning is finished the area should be inspected and any jointing sand which has been lost should be replaced (available from Tobermore).



## Moss, Lichen and Algae

For general cleaning of algae we suggest using hot water with detergent (non-bio washing powder) and a stiff brush. After cleaning we recommend that the area is thoroughly rinsed with clean water.

Repeated treatment may be required for paved areas sited beneath trees or in permanent/hear permanent shade.

Thick growths of moss or lichen must be removed first by scraping out the joints and then treating the area with a moss killer such as Anti-moss paving cleaner or similar. Anti-moss paving cleaners are designed to remove moss, lichens and algae. These type of cleaners generally kill the moss which is then easily brushed off the paving. Some moss cleaning products will leave a residue in the sand joints which help the likelihood of re-growth. The manufacturer's instructions should always be followed.

## Weeds

Large weeds should be removed by hand and then the area treated with a weed killer e.g. Weedol or Pathclear (available from Garden Centres). Smaller weeds can be treated directly with the weed killer and these weeds should start to die within days. Manufacturers instructions should always be followed.

## Leaves, Berries and Fruits.

Stains caused by leaves and berries can be difficult to remove from paving surfaces especially when they are left for long periods and allowed to dry into the surface. One option that can be tried is using a mixture of Sodium Hypochlorite and baby shampoo. Mix 4.5 litres of water, 1.5 litres of Sodium Hypochlorite and 125ml of baby shampoo. Important: When mixing it is safer to add the Sodium Hypochlorite to the water than adding the water to the Sodium Hypochlorite. Thoroughly wet the whole area to be cleaned with clean water and then spray the mixture over the entire surface using a spray pump. Use a stiff brush to gently scrub the paving. Leave for 15-20 minutes and then wash down the entire area with clean water. Take care to ensure that the run-off does not go into vegetation.

The process can be repeated if necessary for stubborn stains.

**Warning:** Always follow the manufacturers instructions and wear protective clothing especially when handling Sodium Hypochlorite.

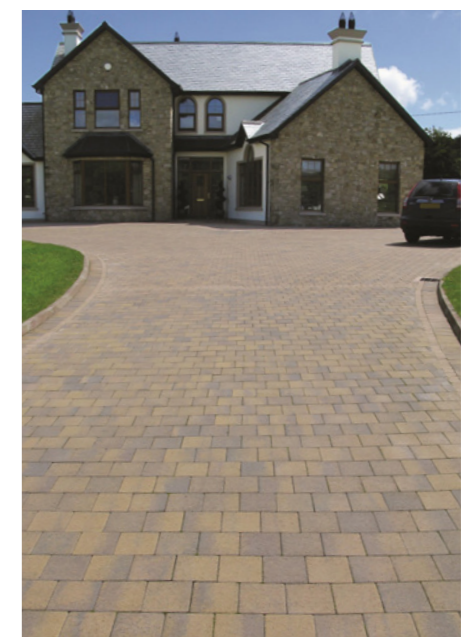
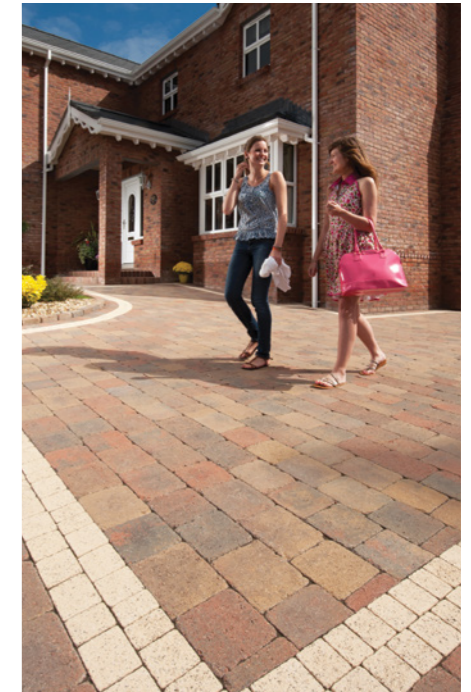
## Winter Maintenance

De-icing salts are used to melt the ice on our roads, driveways, pathways and patios keeping them clear and making us safe!

White rock salt is an effective and readily available de-icer and is best suited to decorative paving on patios and driveways. Please note white rock salt may leave a white salt stain on the paving after the ice has thawed but this is quickly washed away by the rain.

Brown coloured de-icing grit has been used on public areas and roads in the UK and Ireland for many years. It can also be used on driveways and paths etc. however please note it may leave a brown stain on the paving. This is usually quickly washed away by rain after the ice has thawed.

It is good practice to rinse off the pavers with lots of clean water to remove any salt left on the surface. We feel if used only occasionally and responsibly there should be no adverse effect by using white rock salt or brown grit salt on paving.



**Rust Staining - Caused by Gardens Fertilisers (Ferrous Sulphate)**

Extreme care should be taken to avoid accidental staining when using garden fertilisers which contain Ferrous Sulphate on lawns or gardens which are next to paved areas. Over spray from lawns or even walking these fertilisers onto the paving can cause a rust stain.

If using fertilisers ensure that any paving is covered and protected.

**Rust Staining - Caused by Metal (Plant Pots, Garden Furniture, BBQs, etc.)**

Rust stains on paving can come from water running off metal garden furniture, metal BBQ's and metal plant pots. The water allows iron particles to wash onto the paving surface causing a rust stain.

Rust stains are very difficult to remove. This is because the pigments which are used to give concrete products their colour in the manufacturing process contain iron oxides, so if you were to use chemical cleaning products they may affect both the rust and the pigmentation (colour) of the paving.

There are two cleaning methods that can be tried.

**Lemon Juice:** Fresh lemon juice is required. Squeeze the juice directly onto the stain. Allow it to soak into the paving for 5 minutes. Use a stiff brush to scrub the stain, work the lemon juice into the surface of the paving. Wash the area off with lots of clean water. If the stain is still visible you can repeat the process if necessary. **\*\*Avoid overly aggressive scrubbing as this could damage the paving surface. Test a small area first before proceeding\*\***

**Vinegar:** White/clear vinegar should be used. Pour a little vinegar directly onto the stain. Allow it to soak into the paving for 5 minutes. Use a stiff brush to scrub the stain, work the vinegar into the surface of the paving. Wash the area off with lots of clean water. If the stain is still visible you can repeat the process if necessary. **\*\*Avoid overly aggressive scrubbing as this could damage the paving surface. Test a small area first before proceeding\*\***

Removal of rust sources from the paved area should be the first step to avoid rust stains.

**Oil Stains**

Oil spills can quickly penetrate the surface of concrete paving products. If absorbed promptly staining can be greatly reduced or avoided. Paper towels, cloths or other fast absorbing materials such as clay based cat litters can be used to absorb the oil.

Simply trying to wipe the stain should be avoided as this can make the spillage spread over a larger area of the paving.

If after absorbing the oil there is still some residual staining you can use a detergent and hot water. Scrub the stain ensuring that the strength of the detergent does not affect the paving surface or colour.

If the stain still hasn't been fully removed you may have to consider using a degreasing agent such as Gunk or similar. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and completely rinse the paving with clean water afterwards.

Occasionally oil stains can be impossible to fully remove and the only alternative is to replace the stained paving.

**Tyre Marks**

Tyre marks can be removed by scrubbing with hot water and detergent. If the marks still remain they may require a professional company to perform a steam clean.

**Important:** Light coloured paving can emphasise tyre marks, it must be accepted that light colours will require more maintenance if the overall appearance is to be maintained.



**Chewing Gum**

Chewing gum is notoriously difficult to remove from all hard surfaces. A scraper can be used to remove gum which has been newly discarded however the removal of gum which has been allowed to harden over time will require freezing or hot steaming and chiselling.

**Paint**

Paint can be extremely difficult to remove from any hard surface.

Freshly spilt paint can be dealt with by using absorbent paper towels or cloths. Do not wipe the paint as this will only making it spread over a wider area. The remaining paint can then be treated with a degreasing agent. Ensure that the area is washed down with plenty of clean water.

Paint which has dried will be more difficult to remove and whilst scraping can remove some of the paint it may be better to contact the paint manufacturer for advice.

**Soft Drinks/Beer/Wine**

The majority of stains caused by soft drinks, wine or beer can usually be removed simply by scrubbing the area using hot water and detergent. Rinse the area with clean water after washing.

**Paving Sealers**

It is possible to seal block paving with a resin material which combats staining and weed growth and which also enhances colour and appearance. The acrylic sealer is applied to the block paving and forms a 'skin' on top of the paving and the jointing material giving an easily maintained finish. Tobermore do not insist on the use of sealers in combination with their paving and it should be noted that re-application will be required depending on wear. Sealers may alter the colour and slip/skid resistance of paving. The manufacturer's instructions should always be followed when using any sealing agent. We recommend that you test the sealer on a small inconspicuous area first to check that it does not have an adverse effect on the paving.

**(Important: Do not use sealers on EasyClean products)**

**Health & Safety**

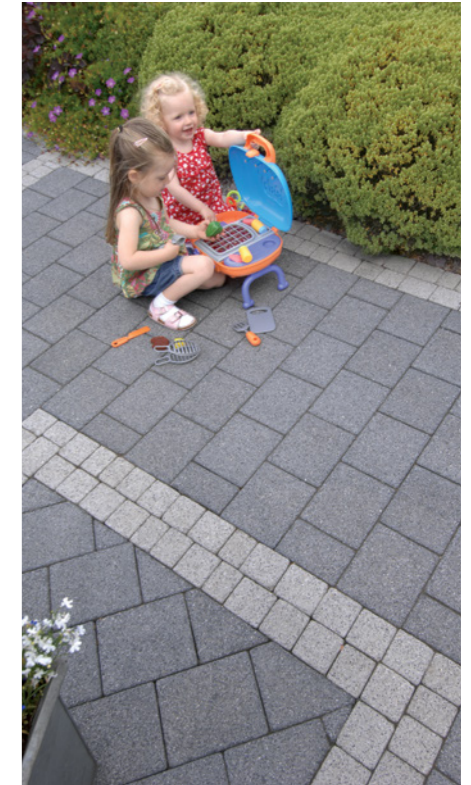
This document provides advice on how to maintain paving. Some of the guidance involves using chemical cleaning products and chemicals which can be dangerous if not handled correctly. We strongly recommend that the manufacturer's instructions on these products and chemicals is followed correctly and that protective clothing including footwear, gloves and glasses are always worn.

Other precautions which must be taken are:

- Always clean / treat a small inconspicuous area first to check the effectiveness before cleaning a large area.
- Do not use naked flames near flammable products
- Ensure adequate ventilation if using chemicals
- Safely dispose of any clothing which has become contaminated
- Cover adjoining surfaces to prevent overspill and damage
- Take care when using chemicals if pets are present

**Disclaimer**

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Paving



Walling & Retaining Walls



Facing Brick

