

One of the main attributes of Exposa® Decorative Concrete is how little maintenance and routine care is required over its lifetime. But no paving material, including Exposa®, is truly maintenance-free. Here are some tips for preserving the life and appearance of your investment.

GENERAL CLEANING

Cleaning your Exposa® regularly is the best measure you can take to keep it looking at its best. Sweeping and high-pressure washing are typically used for general cleaning with a range of chemical based cleaning products used to remove certain stains. How often you clean will depend on the weather conditions the concrete is exposed to and the amount of vehicle traffic it receives.

SEALING

Concrete sealers are available which will help protect your Exposa® from staining and ease the cleaning process. The sealer manufacturer's guidance should be followed for application of sealers to exposed aggregate concrete.

REMOVE STAINS IMMEDIATELY

While a sealer will help to protect concrete from stain absorption, it's still a good idea to remove oil, petrol, diesel, grease and other spills as soon as possible. If the concrete does discolour, pressure washing and certain cleaning chemicals will remove most stains. Mild detergents and steam cleaning should be considered initially before resorting to harsher chemicals. Before using any chemical, check for its suitability in an inconspicuous area initially.

AVOID USING DE-ICING CHEMICALS

Using de-icers on your concrete in the winter can cause surface damage, primarily scaling and spalling by forcing the thawing and refreezing of moisture. Products containing ammonium nitrates and ammonium sulphates are especially harmful because they will actually attack the concrete chemically. Rock salt (sodium chloride) or calcium chloride will do less damage, but they can harm vegetation and corrode metal. To reduce the use of salt it should be mixed with sand to add traction.

CRACK ASSESSMENT

Good design, detailing and construction practise will minimise the risk of cracking. There will however be situations where cracks may occur as a result in movements in the concrete due to changes in its moisture content and



temperature. Pavements may also be subjected to excessive loads which may result in cracking. If cracking does occur, it is important to identify the cause, and then assess whether the cracking is acceptable, or needs repaired. While the visual acceptability of cracks is very subjective, a 0.3mm crack should be regarded as acceptable. Cracks wider than 1mm should be assessed on an individual basis and repaired if required.

TREAT IT WITH CARE

Although Exposa® is one of the most durable paving materials, it can only accept the loading for which the pavement has been designed. Heavy construction equipment or trucks should not be permitted on the surface unless the slab thickness has been designed accordingly. Also use care when ploughing or shovelling to avoid the use of metal blades that might scrape or scratch the surface.

**For more information please contact our
Technical Department on (028) 9085 1441**