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maintenance & cleaning

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paving

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general

BEST

For thousands of years various forms of segmental pavers have been used as a flooring solution. In Australia the use of concrete segmental pavers has grown rapidly since the early 1970's. Concrete pavers have revitalised a broad range of residential, municipal and commercial landscapes adding colour and character to every application.

When designed and constructed correctly, concrete segmental paving will generally require less structural maintenance than other forms of surface.

The information provided here is intended to be used as a guide only and BEST shall accept no responsibility for any losses or damages incurred as a result of the implementation of any remedial action as detailed herein.

importance of design

In landscape design, aesthetically the architectural style, colours and materials of the structure should always be complemented and be of paramount importance. Ideally house designers and landscape designers would work together to produce cohesive living spaces that take into account both indoor and outdoor environments. In reality landscape design is often neglected and in a practical sense aesthetic requirements may not always provide an optimal solution.

In vehicular applications special consideration needs to be given to the paving bond which is employed as some aesthetically pleasing options are not recommended. In these cases practicality needs to take precedence over design and aesthetic requirements.

Type of paving bond employed becomes less critical in pedestrian applications where virtually any paving bond may be used successfully.

trouble-free maintenance

Often the surest way to guarantee ease of maintenance is by selecting the right product for the right application and by ensuring that the project is designed and constructed to industry best standards. For example it is often overlooked that dark or blended colour pavers are to be preferred for use in driveways or areas where food may be consumed as they are effective in disguising any unsightly staining.

Even when consideration has been given to product selection it is generally accepted that a maximum of 2% of paved surface may need replacement every service year. This compares most favorably with alternative surface forms.

routine preventative maintenance

cleaning

Concrete pavers may be cleaned as can other surface forms. Many materials (eg leaves) will only stain pavers if they are allowed to remain in contact with pavers for prolonged periods. Frequent sweeping and flushing of pavers will help maintain its excellent aesthetic appeal.

When sweeping or flushing, precautions must be taken in the early life of paved surface to ensure that jointing sand is not removed. Unless pavers have been sealed, the use of vacuum sweepers and water jets should be avoided until joints have become naturally clogged which normally occurs two to three months into paved surface life.

weed control

Most effective when controlled by periodic applications of weedicide. It is recommended that weedicide be applied in dry weather when pavers are also dry.

regular inspection

Should be made to establish integrity of paved surface. By identifying and attending to small localised problems then often the need for major maintenance of large areas can be avoided.

joint maintenance

Maintaining the jointing sand will protect the structural integrity of paved surface. Segmental pavements develop their structural capacity by the wedging action caused by traffic. It is critical that joints be refilled immediately where any cleaning action has resulted in jointing sand removal and usually this will only be necessary during first few months of paved surface life.