



Care & Maintenance of New Concrete

Now that your concrete project is complete, some simple care and maintenance measures will help ensure you of long lasting concrete.

Immediately, you'll need to keep children, pets, and curious neighbors off of your new concrete until the surface is hard. Even light foot traffic can cause permanent marks on new concrete. You'll be able to walk on your concrete in 48 hours. After 14 days, your driveway will have cured adequately for you to drive vehicles on it.

Concrete is a rigid pavement and is likely to crack with ground movement or material shrinkage during curing. Joints are either tooled into wet concrete or saw cut into concrete at pre-specified intervals to control the cracking and get the cracks to occur in the joints rather than randomly across the surface. Unfortunately, even with perfect joint layout, random cracking sometimes still occurs.

Long term, roots from trees and large shrubs can also raise the concrete, causing it to crack. Keep this in mind if you are planting or landscaping after you finish your concrete work.

Keep heavy trucks (such as moving vans) and heavy equipment off your driveway. Although concrete is durable, residential driveways are not meant to hold heavy vehicles and large equipment.

Avoid putting salt on your new concrete. Salt can cause crumbling and deterioration of concrete surfaces. Using salt during the first winter after your concrete has been poured can be the most harmful thing you can do to your concrete. You should avoid using salt at any time on concrete if possible. Instead of salt, use sand if you can. If you must use an ice melter, use as little as possible and sweep and/or wash it off as soon as possible.

Generally, you should re-seal concrete every two or three years or when the finish begins to show wear. Good sealers are available from concrete suppliers.