

PAVER PATIO

CARE GUIDE

Winter Maintenance and De-Icing

Winter maintenance of your pavers simply involves using two recommended types of de-icing products that are inexpensive and readily available:

- **Sodium Chloride (NaCl):** used for temperatures down to +20°F (-7°C), commonly known as rock salt.
- **Calcium Chloride (CaCl₂):** can be used for temperature ranges from below +20°F (-7°C) to -2°F (-19°C).

There are some recommendations when using de-icing products:

- De-icing products should be applied in a minimum amount to help melt the ice and snow.
- After the snow and ice melt, the excess de-icing chemical should be swept and removed.
- When the winter is over, the pavers can be thoroughly washed to remove excess de-icing agents.
- Other products that aren't Sodium or Calcium Chloride but are labeled as safe for concrete shouldn't be used.
- Magnesium-based products should be avoided as these are very aggressive and cause damage to hardscape surfaces.

For snow clearing, use a plastic shovel and plastic blade protectors for snowplows or blowers. Some pavers are compatible with subsurface heating systems installed beneath the pavers. The system can be installed either before or after laying the pavers in the form of electric heating cables or heated glycol tubing. This system will permanently fix icing issues in problematic areas.

Sealing Your Concrete Pavers

Most pavers sold by Creative don't need to be sealed as they are typically sealed during the manufacturing process. Therefore, we don't recommend sealing. However, for older pavers, sealing can sometimes enhance or deepen the colors of the pavers. This process can also help protect a non-sealed surface from staining. Once you choose to seal the pavers, it is recommended to reapply the sealer every 3-5 years.

Taking Care of Weeds and Moss

Weeds may grow from seeds that germinate between the pavers. Reapplying the joint sand as needed will prevent this.

Cleaning your Concrete Pavers

When power washing the pavers, avoid using the pressure washer at high power. Instead, a gentle wash with the nozzle pointed at a 30-degree angle, 12" away from the surface will suffice. Alternatively, the pavers can be cleaned with a nylon-bristled broom and a mild solution of dish soap and water.