



PINE HALL BRICK

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Technical Bullet Series on Clay Brick Pavers

#2 - Clay Paver Maintenance

Abstract – This Tech Bullet focuses on proper maintenance for clay pavers.

Basic Maintenance

Clay pavers require no special maintenance as natural weathering keeps most clay paving systems clean and beautiful. For maintenance on Permeable Clay Pavers please go to Permeable Paver Maintenance under Permeable Paving.

Pressure Washing Clay Pavers

Pressure washers are not recommended for use on flexible base applications. Pressure washing too close to the pavers can damage the edges of the pavers while also blowing out the joint sand comprising interlock. We suggest using a stiff brush and a normal pressured garden hose.

Cleaning Clay Pavers

In mortared applications, Pine Hall Brick recommends EacoChem's NMD 80 or equivalent. Please use as directed by the manufacturer. DO NOT USE MURIATIC ACID. Pressure washers can be used on mortared applications provided the pressure is limited to 30-50 psi and a 50-degree Fan Tip is used. Rinse pressure should not exceed 200-300 psi.

For specific cleaning situations like oil stains or spills, use commercial cleaners generally available at masonry supply outlets. When using any type of cleaner, always test on a small hidden portion of the pavement. Pre-wet pavement thoroughly before cleaning and rinse after with clean water. The use of some acid cleaners may cause staining in some types of clay pavers

Efflorescence

Efflorescence is covered in efflorescence specific Tech Bullet #11.

Sealers

Clay paver color is natural and permanent! Since clay pavers do not fade sealers are not necessary for color retention. They also do not help long-term durability and in-fact some sealers can negatively affect the durability of clay pavers.

If a sealer is used to achieve a wet look, it should be a breathable sealer that is siloxane based. Silicone sealers do not allow clay pavers to breath and can cause the pavers to spall.

Moss & Weeds

The existence of moss is an indication of lack of sun and/or poor drainage as consistently wet area is an ideal environment mildew and moss. The best solution is to keep the area dry by increasing sunlight and improving drainage. For moss and organic growth removal, a three-to-one solution of water and chlorine bleach is recommended or a one to one dilution in severe cases. Pre-wet the area before application and rinse. Bleach may cause temporary efflorescence.



Picture 1: Weeds Between Joints of Clay Pavers

Weed growth in flexible base paving systems is common in lower traffic areas. Contrary to popular belief, growth takes place in the sand joint and not from underneath the pavers. Weed killer such as Round Up will handle existing growth while a pre-emergent weed killer can be used in the spring as a prevention measure. Joint sand stabilizers can be effective at weed prevention.

Snow Removal & De-Icing

Snow and ice can be removed with normal hand equipment or motorized vehicles. Snowplow blades should be equipped with a rubber edge and set @ 1/4" above the pavement. Rotary brushes and snow blowers can also be used to remove snow from clay pavers.

The use of rock salts is not recommended for snow and ice removal because of the possibility of efflorescence. Pure magnesium chloride is a deicer shown to not effloresce in lab testing.