



STONEMARKET



AFTERCARE GUIDE
Patio & Driveway

Aftercare Guide

Our involvement doesn't end when your project is complete. We are passionate about our products and we want to help you get the most from your outdoor spaces.

From those little seasonal cleaning jobs to removing general dirt, spillages and stains, this aftercare guide contains the simple steps you'll need to maintain and clean your new patio or driveway.

We are always here to advise and help you care for and maintain your installation, even if it's just a quick wash down with soap and water.

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Call our technical team on **0345 302 0603** for further information

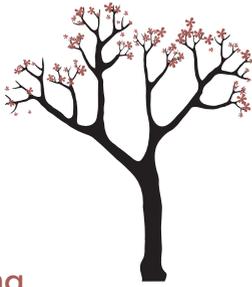


Remember to always **take care** when cleaning

Please note: Stonemarket does not recommend the use of any form of sealant on our products if installed externally.

To make sure you're safe when cleaning and maintaining your new patio or driveway, always follow these simple health and safety tips:

- Always wear protective clothing and equipment like gloves, goggles and boots
- Make sure there is plenty of ventilation when using any cleaning products recommended in this guide. Use a face mask in areas with limited ventilation
- Make sure pets and children are out of the way when cleaning and maintaining your patio or driveway
- Take care when disposing of any water which may run off your patio or driveway. Take care not to damage, contaminate or stain any adjoining materials, turf or ponds
- Always trial a small, inconspicuous area first when applying any cleaning products recommended in this guide to ensure their compatibility with different patio and driveway products



Spring

Give your patio its first good clean of the year after the winter months to get rid of any dirt and detritus which may have built up. Check the area to make sure your jointing is still intact.

Many common patio cleaners and brick acids are hydrochloric acid based and are not appropriate on most of our products, including sandstone.



Summer

To keep your garden looking its best give it a regular sweep and general clean with water to keep it looking good.

Make sure any spillages are cleaned down straight away to minimise any staining risks.

Lawn fertilisers contain iron additives which can cause rust staining on any patio near to the lawn if over-sprayed - these stains should dissipate in time.



Autumn

As the leaves begin to fall, regularly sweep up any leaves or shrubbery to ensure they do not stain your patio or driveway. Also remove any stains which may have occurred from berries and leaves falling from trees.

Leaves contain tannins that can stain your patio or driveway.



Winter

Winter chills can bring snow and ice onto patios and driveways. De-icer can be used on these surfaces but there may be some temporary discolouration once the snow and ice has disappeared.

This should only be temporary and will dissipate away over time.

Never use common salt to de-ice reconstituted stone or limestone. Specific products are formulated for this purpose.

Removing weeds

Weeds will be prevalent on any surface where dirt and debris is left to accumulate over time.



Remove weeds by hand or by using a gardening tool. Get as much of the root as possible to avoid re-growth.



Make sure your jointing is intact. Damaged joints should be repaired to avoid long term damage from water ingress.



For persistent weed growth use a weed killer available from all DIY stores.

Removing general dirt and debris

If you just want to give your patio or driveway a quick clean, simply give the area a good sweep with a stiff bristle brush to remove any surface dirt. If the original colour of the paving or driveway is still not apparent, use some soapy water and the stiff bristle brush to remove any further stubborn stains.

Always check the joints to make sure they are still intact. Damaged joints should be repaired to avoid future damage from water ingress.



Products containing **Ferrous Sulphate** can cause staining on the treated surface. Always read the manufacturer's instructions and protect ponds and watercourses.

Removing moss, mould, algae & lichen

Moss, mould, algae and lichen grow naturally on the surface of concrete and natural stone paving. Growth is enhanced if the driveway or patio is in a shaded area and is prone to ponding water.

To remove these stains we would recommend you give the area a good clean with a stiff bristle brush to remove any surface dirt and a wash down with warm soapy water.



Efflorescences

As you admire your new patio or driveway you may start to see small white deposits on the surface of your patio or driveway and potentially the jointing compound.

This is called efflorescence and is a natural phenomenon which occurs in all cement based concrete products, due to a reaction between cement and water which produces calcium-hydroxide.

Although the white deposits on the product may cause some concern, they will naturally weather over time and disappear. This can take up to 12 months.



Power washing

Although power washing can be seen as a quick fix for removing dirt and debris, if used in excess the power of the water pressure can damage your patio or driveway.



To ensure minimal damage, follow these four quick steps:

1



Give the area a good sweep with a stiff bristle brush to remove any dirt or debris.

2



Carry out a test on a small inconspicuous area first.

3



Use on low pressure setting and do not use an oscillating lance.

4



Do not direct the power washer directly onto the surface. Use at a 30° angle or use a rotary scrubbing attachment.

Basic cleaning advice

General dirt	Use a stiff bristle brush to remove any surface dirt
	Use a detergent and water solution to rinse off
Weeds	Pull out any weeds
	Brush surface with a stiff brush
	Weed Killer (where required) avoid products which include ferrous sulphate as this can leave a brown stain over the treated surface. Brush surface with a stiff brush
Moss, mould & algae	Use a stiff brush to remove any surface dirt
	Use a detergent and water solution to rinse off
Oil, fat or grease	Use paper towels to soak up residue immediately. Do not wipe as this can cause the stain to expand
	Kiln Dried Sand can help soak up any excess oil
Beer, wine & soft drinks	Use detergent solution & hot water to remove the stain
	If the stain is still apparent, use a mild household bleach and clean water to remove the stain
Fruit, berries & leaves	Use detergent & hot water to remove the stain
	If the stain is still apparent, use a mild household bleach and clean water to remove the stain
Blood	Use detergent & hot water to remove the stain
Chewing gum	Scrape off the chewing gum from the surface
	For more stubborn gum, use a freeze spray on the area and then chip off the surface
	For more stubborn gum, use a freeze spray on the area and then chip off the surface

Smoke, fire & tobacco	Scrub the area with detergent & hot water to remove the stain
	If the stain is still apparent, use a mild household bleach and clean water to remove the stain
Rust	To remove the stain use lemon juice or vinegar
	Process for either: place on stained area for 5 minutes, scrub into the stain with a stiff bristle brush or wash with plenty of clean water
	If the stain is still apparent, use a rust cleaner for your specific paving material. Always read the manufacturers instructions before application
Cement, mortar & concrete	Use an acid brick cleaner to remove any stains
Paint, ink & graffiti	Wet: Use paper towels to soak up material, do not wipe with paper towels as this will extend the stain or use white spirit, water and detergent to clean the area
	Dry: Scrape off all excess paint and use paint remover to remove the stain, if paint remover does not work, use an acid brick cleaner
	Ink: Sodium Perborate & hot water solution
	Dry paint or graffiti: source a specific cleaner for your paving material
Tyre marks	Use detergent & hot water to remove the stain or hot water and steam clean
Epoxy & Polyester	Use detergent & hot water to remove the stain
	Burn off with a blow torch
Copper, bronze & aluminium	Use an acid brick cleaner to remove any stains



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