



PAVER & HARDSCAPE

CARE GUIDE

Your patio, walkway, driveway, or wall is built to last for decades. A little routine care keeps it looking new, protects the joints, and heads off costly repairs.

The First 30 Days After Installation

- **Polymeric sand needs time to cure.** Keep foot traffic off for 24 hours and vehicles off for 72 hours, or as long as your crew advises.
- Don't rinse, pressure wash, or run sprinklers onto new joints for at least the first week.
- Don't set furniture, grills, or planters on the surface for the first 24 hours.
- A light white haze may appear. This is **efflorescence**, a natural mineral deposit (see below). It is not a defect.

Routine Cleaning

- **Sweep regularly** to keep sand, leaves, and debris from grinding into the surface.
- **Rinse** with a garden hose. For heavier dirt, scrub with warm water, mild dish soap, and a stiff nylon brush.
- **Pressure washing:** use a wide fan tip on low pressure, hold the wand at least 12" away, and spray at an angle, *never straight into the joints*. Washed-out joints need new sand.
- Never use wire brushes, muriatic acid, or bleach. They can etch, discolor, or break down the surface and joint sand.

Stain Removal: Act Fast

Stain	What to Do
Oil / grease	Blot right away. Cover with cat litter or sawdust overnight, sweep up, then use a paver degreaser.
Rust	Often caused by fertilizer granules or metal furniture. Sweep fertilizer off the pavers right after spreading, then use a paver rust remover.
Leaves & tannins	Clear wet leaves before they sit. Most tannin stains fade with sun and rain, or clean with a paver cleaner.
Food, wine, grease	Wipe up spills promptly. Wash with dish soap and warm water, then rinse well.
Mold, moss & algae	Common in shady, damp spots. Scrub with a paver-safe cleaner and improve sun or drainage if you can.

Joints & Weeds

- Joint sand locks pavers together, so keep it topped up.
- Pull weeds while small, or spot-treat them.
- Bare or sunken joints? Call us to re-sand. It stops shifting and weeds.

Efflorescence

- White, chalky haze from natural salts in concrete.
- It usually fades on its own within a few months to a year.
- Don't seal over it. Persistent haze can be treated with an efflorescence cleaner.

TIP: Hold on to any spare pavers or wall block left over from your project and store them in the garage or shed. If a piece ever cracks or gets a stain that won't come out, we can swap it with one that matches your color and batch.

Always follow the label directions for any cleaner, sealer, or ice melt. Test new products on a small, hidden area first.

PAVER & HARDSCAPE

SEASONAL & WINTER CARE

Spring Mar – May

- Sweep up leftover ice melt and sand, then rinse.
- Look for heaving, low spots, or washed-out joints after the thaw.
- Check wall caps for looseness.

Summer Jun – Aug

- Stay ahead of weeds in the joints.
- Clean up grill, food, and pool-chemical spills quickly.
- Good time to seal: dry weather, 50–90°F.

Fall Sep – Nov

- Keep wet leaves off to prevent tannin stains.
- Give everything a deep clean before winter.
- Stake driveway and walk edges for snow plowing.

Winter Dec – Feb

- Shovel early and often. Packed snow turns to ice.
- Use ice melt sparingly (see below).
- Keep downspouts aimed away from pavers to prevent refreeze.

Snow & Ice: Do

- Use a **plastic shovel** or a plow blade with a rubber or poly edge.
- Choose **calcium chloride** or **calcium magnesium acetate (CMA)** ice melt.
- Apply only what's needed, and sweep up extra once the ice is gone.
- Use sand for traction on steps and slopes.

Snow & Ice: Don't

- Don't use metal-edged shovels, ice picks, or chisels on the surface.
- Avoid **rock salt** and any product with **ammonium nitrate** or **ammonium sulfate**. They can damage pavers, natural stone, and nearby plants.
- Don't pile salty snow on lawn and garden beds.

Sealing Your Pavers

Sealing is optional, but it adds stain resistance, deepens color, and helps lock in joint sand. Wait **at least 60–90 days** after installation so any efflorescence can come out first. Most surfaces need resealing every **3–5 years**. If water no longer beads up on the surface, it's time.

Retaining Walls

- Keep drains and weep holes clear. Trapped water is a wall's biggest enemy.
- Don't add soil, heavy planters, or structures on top or behind it.
- Watch for leaning, bulging, or loose caps.

Natural Stone & Bluestone

- Clean with pH-neutral stone cleaners only. Never use acids.
- Stone is more sensitive to ice melt, so use it lightly.
- A penetrating stone sealer helps resist stains and salt.

When to Call GreenGrove

Sunken or heaved pavers • joints that keep washing out • standing water or puddling • loose wall caps or steps • leaning or bulging walls • stubborn stains or efflorescence • cleaning, re-sanding, or sealing service. **Small fixes caught early cost far less than rebuilding later.**