HARDSCAPE CARE GUIDE

DIY with WESTERN INTERLOCK

WESTERN INTERLOCK INC.

keep your hardscape looking great!

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STANDARD OF CARE

Western Interlock's products, like any other concrete product and/ or natural stone will not resist staining and or environmental debris build up. Anything outdoors whether man-made or natural will suffer Mother Nature's wrath when exposed to the elements 24/7, 365 days a year. Therefore, if you want to keep your pavers looking good it will entail some maintenance on your part.

It is contrary to Western Interlock's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to be involved in the care of a mature pavement or retaining structure. Care, as mentioned herein, is the responsibility of the owner for any and all outdoor products.

HOW OFTEN?

You just completed your dream hardscape, and now you're wondering "What do I need to do to keep it looking amazing, and how often do I need to do it?" Use the chart below as a quick reference guide, but most importantly, use your gut instinct and clean or repair when you see that it's necessary. *For more information on each of these, check the corresponding page in this guide.*

After Installation	Monthly	Annually (Spring)	Every 3–4 years	Every 5–10 years
Clean your pavers using a paver cleaner or bleach rinse.	Sweep, hose, or blow off your pavers to keep dirt and debris from collecting and leaving organic stains.	Clean your pavers with a coarse-bristle broom and paver cleaner to keep them looking new.	Re-seal your hardscape.	Remove and replace any chipped or cracked pavers.
Ensure your joints are full of joint or polymeric sand (or aggregates for permeable pavers).	Remove weeds between your joints by pulling them or using a weed preventative or weed killer.	Remove efflorescence, if any appears, by applying Muriatic Acid. NOTE: Professionals only		Spot replace base material or bedding if dips or rises occur.
Apply sealer at least a day after the pavers have been cleaned. *(Could vary depending on weather conditions)*		Supplement the joints of your pavers with sweeping sand so they stay full and sturdy.		Replace plastic edge restraint or border stones if they're sloughing off or loose.

WHAT TO USE

Treat your pavers just as you would anything that spends the majority of it's time outside, such as a vehicle or patio furniture. Very mild detergents, water and product specific chemicals are all that is necessary to restore or enhance their presence and charm. Sealing protectants of all types are available for additional protection from acid rain, stains and nature's worst.

WHAT TO AVOID

Avoid wire brushes, high pressure washers, and strong acids like sulfuric and muriatic as they can all do serious damage to the surface of a concrete paver, ruining your beautiful hardscaping.

PRESSURE WASHERS

Many of our customers use paving stones to make driveways or large patios in their backyard. Some have even used our stones to make basketball or tennis courts. And let me tell you, they're beautiful. But on the other hand, it's a large space to clean and maintain. For these situations, it can be tempting to want to use a pressure washer. Pressure washers can be very helpful, however, pressure washers are a good way to ruin your hardscape. Use the following tips to achieve the best results and prevent damage.

TIP 1:

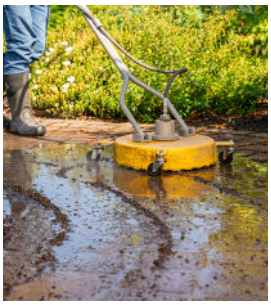
Lower your pressure

It's important to note when doing any sort of pressure washing, that you want to control the PSI (pounds per square inch). To prevent damaging your hardscape, we recommend keeping your pressure under 1,500 PSI.

TIP 2:

Watch your distance and tip size

Keep the tip at least 8"-12" from the surface of the pavers. Use a tip with at least a 25° fan. The use of narrow tips and/or too close of distance can cause irreversible damage to the surface.



TIP 3:

Use a surface washer

For larger areas, using a surface washer can really make things easier. Using the surface cleaner is like mowing your lawn. You know exactly where you've mowed and you can overlap if necessary to prevent lines. Measure your distance and try to cover about 10 feet per minute to prevent swirl marks.

PESTS AND MOSS

ANTS AND INSECTS

Ants and insects sure know how to mess up hardscape. Sometimes they're blatant and they'll dig up your sand right in the middle of things. Other times they're sneaky and they'll dig up sand under a potted plant or doormat. Either way, if you've noticed any signs of ants or insects, you've got a problem.

STEP 1

The first step to fixing this problem is to get to the root issue and kill the ants or insects. For this, we recommend applying an Insecticide called Tempo SC Ultra. Apply the product to the insect's exit hole, following the manufacturer's instructions. Tempo SC Ultra is safe to use around children and pets when applied according to the product label instructions. Always wear the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) when mixing and applying this product. Keep children and pets off treated areas until it has completely dried.

STEP 2

Next, you'll want to replace the sand between your pavers. You might be able to simply sweep the sand mound right back into the hole. But depending on the severity of the ant or insect problem, you may have to backfill with additional sand. After you're done, simply sweep away the excess sand or use a hose to spray the surface of your hardscape clean.

MOSS AND WEEDS

The beautiful, wet climate of the PNW has a few not-so-beautiful downsides. One of them is the tendency of moss and weeds to pop up in places where you don't want them. Good news—unwanted vegetation can be removed from the grooves in your hardscape!

Scrape away moss or weeds with a flathead screwdriver

The first thing you can do is use a regular flathead screwdriver to scrape away the moss or weeds from your pavers. Make sure you break apart the moss and weeds without scratching the pavers. You can then use a stiff-bristle broom or brush to brush away the loosened weeds. After the moss and weeds die, you can rinse off your pavers and then refill the paver joints with joint sand to prevent further unwanted weed growth.

Pull weeds or kill them using a herbicide solution

If your joints are moist and you only have a few weeds large enough to pull, go ahead and remove them by hand. The second option you can implement to remove weeds from your pavers is to use a weed-killer solution. Spray the weeds as you normally would, but avoid too much overspray onto the pavers. After the weeds die, you should rinse the pavers to get rid of the dead weeds.

To kill moss, use a bleach rinse as outlined on the next page.

Spray away moss or weeds using a pressure washer

The last option you can use to get rid of unwanted moss or weeds in your pavers is to pressure wash the cracks. This will get rid of them, but do try to limit your water pressure to 1,500 PSI, and be careful to not spray away the joint sand or sealant. It will help if you keep your nozzle at least 6" away from your hardscape.

BLEACH RINSE

If you live in a climate that's conducive to moss, it's likely you'll experience other fungi growth like algae. Follow the steps below and you can eradicate moss and algae quite easily.

STEP 1:

Mix up the bleach solution

First, mix a 50/50 bleach and water solution in a watering can. Add the bleach first then add cold hose water to help mix the solution.

STEP 2:

Apply the bleach solution

Next, sprinkle the bleach solution on your hardscape. We recommend covering the affected area by applying as much bleach rinse as you're comfortable with. Rest assured that your Western Interlock pavers are tough and this rinse is not going to discolor or disintegrate your pavers.

STEP 3:

Rinse

Last, rinse your pavers with fresh water. After 15–20 minutes, stretch out your garden hose again and rinse. After your hardscape dries, the fungi should be either dead or gone. If you're dealing with moss, you'll need to scrape or spray it off. If you're dealing with another fungus, like algae, it should rinse easily. If not, follow our recommendations for pressure washing on page 5.

MANAGING STAINS

ORGANIC DEBRIS AND STAINS

Here in the PNW, leaf litter, evergreen needles, pitch, tanic stains and such are a reality of life. Here's how to deal with them.

LEAVES AND NEEDLES

The first step to dealing with leaf stains is not to allow them to happen in the first place. Regular sweeping or blowing can greatly reduce the likelihood of leaf stains forming.

If you have tannin stains from leaves or needles, there are several commercially available cleaners available, or you can use a 50/50 mixture of bleach with a splash of dish soap. Pre-soak the area to be treated, apply the cleaning solution and then scrub with a nylon brush. Rinse area and repeat as needed.

TREE PITCH

Wherever there's evergreen trees, there's pitch. To remove pitch deposits from your pavers, there's a couple of methods that work. For smaller areas, you can use isopropyl alcohol, a nylon brush and a rag. For larger areas, a hot water pressure washer is the best route. These can often be rented from local equipment yards. Turn the temperature up all the way and follow our pressure washer recommendations on page 5.

DIRT AND MUD

Generally, dirt and mud can be removed simply with water and a stiff broom. For more stubborn dirt or mud, using some dish detergent can help break the dirt free from the surface. Sometimes, you will run into more difficult soil stains. We explain what to do down below:

RUST

Rust is iron oxide, and it can come from several sources such as such as patio furniture, fertilizers or high iron content water (irrigation). After spreading lawn or plant fertilizer, be sure to sweep the surface of your pavement to prevent rust spots.

Our pavers are colored with iron oxide, and the rust bonds molecularly with the iron in the pavers, resulting in an extremely difficult to remove stain. This stain can sometimes be removed using household iron removers. However, we cannot guarantee that any efforts to remove the stain will not damage the underlying paver. The best tactic is to prevent exposure to rust in the first place.

TIGARD SOIL

Throughout the Willamette Valley, there is a soil known as Tigard Soil. It is a reddish clay and has high iron content and will severely stain our paving stones.

The best preventative measure is to avoid tracking the mud on the pavers to begin with, but we realize that this is an unreal expectation. What you can do is rinse off your shoes, or you can put down plywood or plastic in areas that will receive traffic to prevent the soil from coming into contact with the pavers if at all possible.

If you do get some Tigard Soil stains, the only thing that we've found to work is a hot water pressure washer. These can often be rented from local equipment yards. Turn the temperature up all the way and follow our pressure washer recommendations on page 5.

OIL AND GREASE

It happens even to those of us who are the most careful with our pavers—we park a vehicle on our new driveway and end up with an ugly oil spill right in the middle of our lovely hardscape. Is it possible to undo the damage done by leaked motor oil? Yes it is.

Apply SEK Surebond Oil Extractor on the pavers

To remove the oil spill from your pavers, apply Surebond Oil Extractor all over the stain first. Pour the liquid liberally into the spot(s) of oil you need to remove. Ensure you follow the manufacturer's instructions on the bottle, as the oil extractor is a potent concoction.

Scrub the oil stain to remove the oil

The second step to removing the motor oil stain from your hardscape is to vigorously scrub all over the spilled motor oil spot(s). You should use a handheld brush for minor stains, or a large, rough bristle brush with a handle for larger oil spills.

Let sit for 30 minutes

The third step in removing a motor oil spill from your hardscape is to sit back and do nothing! Let the Surebond Oil Extractor do its job in pulling the oil out of the pavers. It will soak in and separate the oil from the concrete. If the stain is in direct sunlight, you'll want to provide shade so that the harsh sun does not change the effectiveness or evaporate the oil extractor. **DO NOT LET THE PRODUCT DRY ON THE SURFACE.**

Rinse pavers with hot water

The next step in removing the motor oil from your pavers is to rinse it with boiling water. Pour hot water onto the stain, where you applied the oil extractor. Scrub the pavers as you are rinsing. Don't be afraid to be rough and to scrub hard! You want to make sure you get the stain out of the hardscape.

Repeat if necessary

Did the process remove the oil from your pavers? If not, repeat the procedure one or more times to continue lifting the oil out, eventually it should come totally out of your pavers.

EFFLORESCENCE & MINERAL DEPOSITS

STEP 1:

Clean your patio

First things first, when your hardscape is dry, thoroughly sweep or blow off the patio.

STEP 2:

Get your hose ready

Any garden hose works that's long enough to soak the entire surface of your paving stones. Attach your spray nozzle, unravel your hose, and turn on the water, so you're prepared to rinse your hardscape quickly after you've applied the treatment solution.

STEP 3:

Mix your acid

You'll want to use a light solution of a 21:1 ratio of water to acid, or 6 ounces of acid for every gallon of water.

We recommend filling the water can first, then add your acid. We've found it helpful to use a cheap, plastic graduated measuring cup to help you measure and add in the Muriatic acid. If you don't, you'll risk overfilling the watering can and spilling the mixture.

NOTE: DO NOT USE METAL CONTAINERS WHEN WORKING WITH ACID. The acid will destroy the containers leading to loss of property.

When you're working with acid, wear protective eyewear, a long-sleeved shirt, pants, boots, and gloves to protect your skin. Even though Muriatic Acid is natural, it's still acid, and it will cause burns or rashes if it comes in contact with your eyes or skin.

PRO TIP: In a standard two-gallon watering can add 1.8 gallons (236 ounces) of water and 10 ounces of acid. Always err on the lighter side with the acid to prevent damage.

STEP 4:

Apply the acid

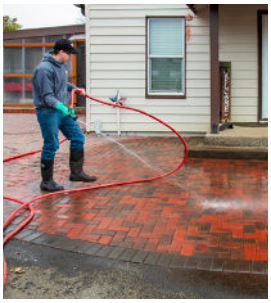
Coat a small surface area of your stones thoroughly using the acid mixture in a watering can, but do so quickly. Break your entire hardscape into small, manageable treatment areas. It's important to remember that while the Muriatic Acid won't kill plants or grass, try to keep the mixture within the confines of your hardscape.

Pro Tip: Protect surfaces such as metal, concrete or asphalt from the acid to prevent unwanted damage.

STEP 5:

Wait three minutes

It takes only three minutes for the muriatic acid to break down the deposits on your stones. You'll want to rinse your stones as soon as the three minutes are up, so we recommend setting a timer on your phone. If you leave acid longer than three minutes, you risk permanently damaging your hardscape. Three minutes go by fast, so rinse quickly after your timer ends.



STEP 6:

Rinse

After it's been three minutes, you'll want to rinse your stones immediately. Make sure to wash off all your hardscape thoroughly so that there isn't any remaining acid residue. We recommend spraying into your grass or landscape but away from your house, garden, or any galvanized metal.

STEP 7:

Repeat if necessary

Continue treating your hardscape in small areas. Wash. Rinse. Repeat. If your paving stones had heavy deposits, you may need to repeat the process on your entire hardscape a few times. Just follow the directions we've outlined here each time and, after a few washes, your stones should look new again.

LARGE SURFACE CLEANING

While large surface cleaning can be done with a standard pressure washer, we've found that the surface cleaner attachment gives you more control and coverage because of it's defined round cleaning space.

Using the surface cleaner is like mowing your lawn. You know exactly where you've mowed and you can overlap if necessary. And just like if you're mowing tall grass, take it slow. In fact, measure your distance and try to cover about 10 feet per minute. In plain language, if you have a 10-foot walkway to clean, it should take you one minute to clean one pass.

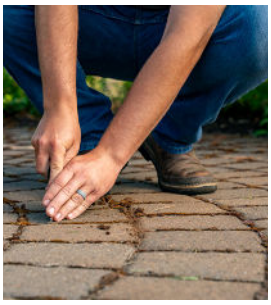
It's important to note when doing any sort of pressure washing, that you want to control the PSI (pounds per square inch). Since the surface cleaner has two rotating heads that blast an inch or less from your hardscape, keep your pressure under 1,500 PSI.

Cleaning with a surface cleaner is easy. Like I mentioned above, just pretend you're mowing your lawn. Walk slowly, overlap when necessary, and have yourself a good time.

JOINT SAND

DRY SWEEPING SAND

Fine dry sweeping sand is an especially fine sand that is used in between paver joints. This type of sand is easy to install by yourself and is the least expensive option. This sand is not the same thing as the cheap sand marketed as Play Sand. Play Sand has no gradation and so therefore contains larger pieces than is desired. Maintenance of dry sweeping sand joints is easy to do. Here's some tips:



TIP 1:

Deal with insects and moss

Burrowing insects such as ants can wreak havoc with dry sand joints. For more information on dealing with them, see page 7. Here in the PNW, if something doesn't move, it grows moss. Dry sand joints are extra susceptible to moss growth. For more on getting rid of moss, see pages 8-9.

TIP 2:

Top off your joints

Life outside 24/7 will result in some loss of sand regardless. Don't worry if this happens. Simply sweep in more sand to bring the level up to the top of the chamfer on the paver.

TIP 3:

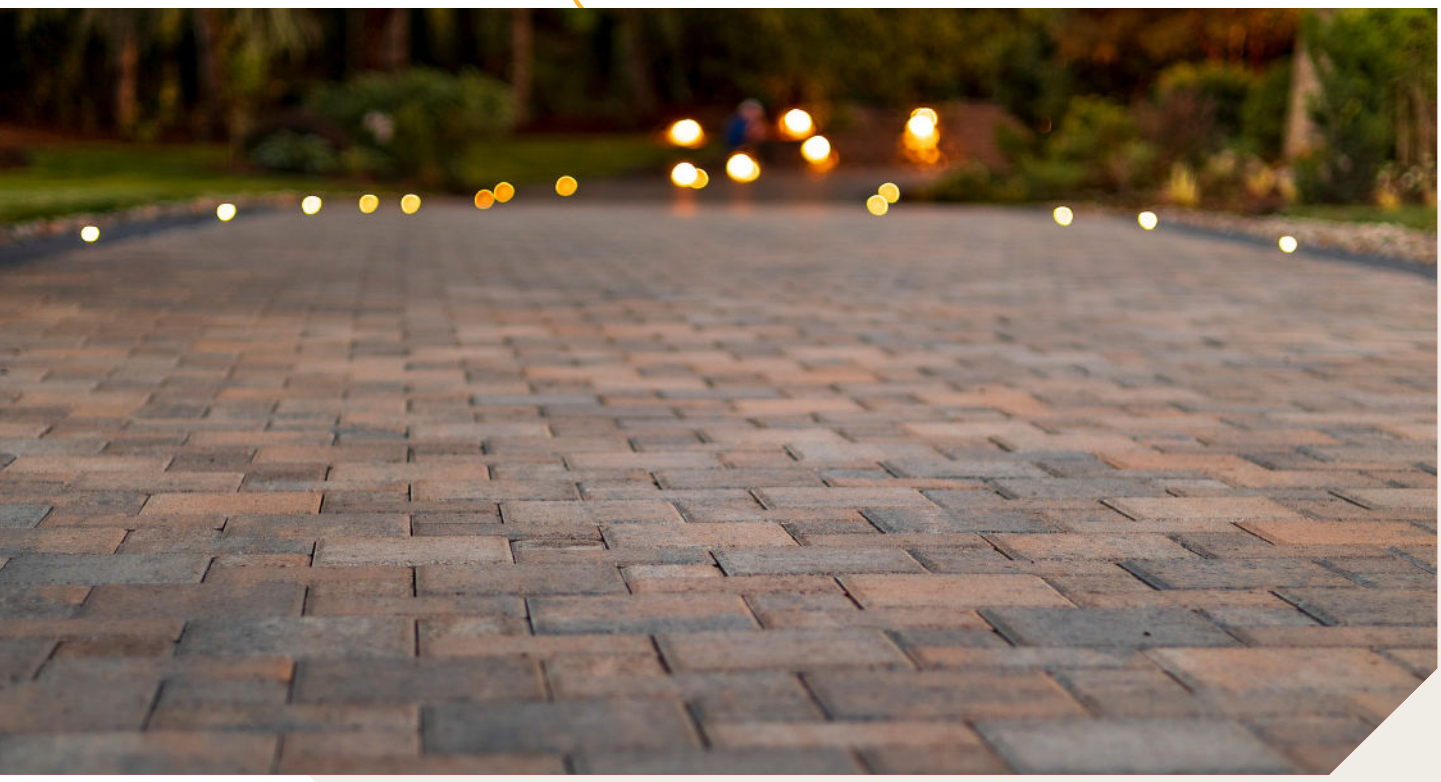
Enhance performance with a joint stabilizing sealer

To get the most out of your dry sand joints, consider using a joint stabilizing sealer such as SEK's SB-8700. These sealers help to bond the sand together to prevent washout and moss growth. For more on sealers, see page 26.

POLYSAND

Polysands are designed to need minimal maintenance over the life of the product, which can be as long as ten years. All that may need to be done to properly installed polysand is an occasional cleaning with a light detergent cleaner such as dish soap. Wash the surface just as you would a car with a brush and hose.

DO NOT TOP OFF POLYSAND! Unless there is at least 1" of joint visible below the chamfer on the paver, topping off of polysand will result in delamination and inadequate performance.



POLYSAND HAZE

If polysand is not installed correctly, a whiteish haze can result. One cause of this haze is when the polysand is hydrated too early, such as when the paver surface is wet either from existing moisture or from rain. The second thing that can cause hazing is not properly blowing off the surface of the pavers prior to hydrating the sand. Polymers left on the surface will activate and remain there as haze. Finally, over-watering can cause a haze as the polymers float to the top and are deposited on the surface of the pavers.

This haze is not efflorescence. DO NOT USE ACID TO REMOVE IT OR IMMEDIATE DAMAGE TO THE PAVERS WILL RESULT. The best way to remove polysand haze is with a hot water pressure washer. Turn the heat up all the way and turn the pressure all the way down. For more on pressure washers, see page 5.

DAMAGED OR FAILING PAVERS

BROKEN PAVERS

While we strive for the utmost in quality, paving stones are still a manufactured product. Unfortunately, sometimes flawed product makes it out of our doors. This can show up in the field as broken or otherwise failing pavers. Fixing it is easy. Just follow these steps:

Remove the faulty paver(s)

To remove a paving stone, select two flathead screwdrivers or stiff putty knives, place the edges of the tools on each side of the stone in the sand joint. If polysand has been used, pour boiling water over the area to make this easier. Next, pry the stone up by pushing the tools in an outward motion until you can grab the stone with one of your hands. Pull the stone out the rest of the way by hand, wiggling as you go.

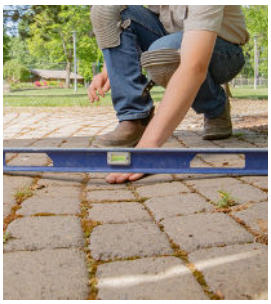
Repair any damage to the bedding layer

Sometimes the damaged paver or the removal process can disturb the bedding layer underneath. Use a trowel or something similar to smooth and level the bedding layer before replacing the paver.

Re-lay with fresh pavers

To replace a paver (or pavers) use the click and drop method. This will prevent disturbing the bedding layer you just repaired. Make sure to hand tamp the stone(s) when finished relaying to ensure a compact fit with the base layers. Next, sweep in new joint sand to fill the joints between the stones to create a bond between the pavers.

REPAIRING SUNKEN PAVERS



STEP 1:

Assess the problem

First, when navigating any paving stone repair, assess the problem so that you know exactly what's going on—and so you don't cause a bigger issue.

STEP 2:

Pull up the paving stones

Next, pull up the paving stones. We recommend that you pull up 12–16" past the sunken area, in every direction, so that you'll retain a good reference for the grade. For more on how to pull a paver see page 21.

STEP 3:

Remove the bedding layer

Next, remove the sand from your base. Leave a few inches of sand around the perimeter of the area for a point of reference. While you are removing the sand, be sure to scrape moss and sand off of the exposed perimeter and off of each paver.

STEP 4:

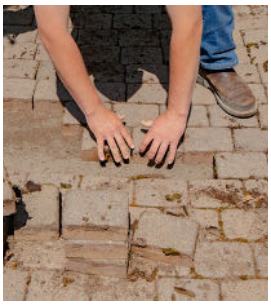
Replace the base

Fill-in the depression with gravel and hand tamp it back to grade. Use the extra area around the edges for reference.

STEP 5:

Replace the bedding layer

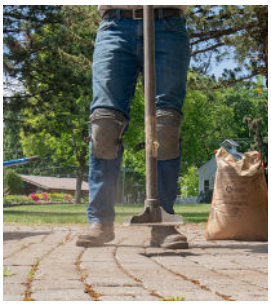
Once the gravel is compact and level with the rest of your hardscape, add new concrete sand. Use a trowel to spread a level surface.



STEP 6:

Re-lay the pavers

Re-lay the pavers as you would when installing a new hardscape using the click and drop method. If you knock the stones together before you lay them, you'll loosen any debris and increase the interlock of your stones.



STEP 7:

Tamp and sweep

Finally, tamp the stones to ensure that they are compacted. Compacting causes the stones to form a tight bond with the bedding layer, which reduces the chance of your pavers sinking again. Sweep joint sand into the joints between the pavers. Do this by pouring a pile of sand on your hardscape and sweep it over the stones until your joints can't hold any more sand.

TREE ROOTS

When a tree is located near your hardscape, it's likely that the roots have grown through your hardscape's bedding sand and created raised areas that pose a tripping hazard. Here's what to do to fix it:

STEP 1:

Pull up the paving stones

In order to get at the problem you'll have to pull up the paving stones. We recommend that you pull up 12–16" past the affected area, in every direction, so that you'll retain a good reference for the grade. For more on how to pull a paver see page 21.

STEP 2:

Remove the roots

Next, remove the roots. Use pruners, a hacksaw or hatchet to cut the roots as far back as you can. You may need to cut in multiple spots around the problem area depending on the path of the root system. Once you've cut the root, pull it out of the sand so that there is no root system left.

STEP 3:

Level the sand and replace the pavers

Re-trowel the sand until it is smooth and matches the grade around the edges of the problem area. Unless the root system disrupted the gravel layer of your base, which is unlikely, there's no need to replace or refill any gravel. After you've leveled your sand, re-lay your paving stones using the click-and-drop method.

STEP 4:

Tamp and sweep

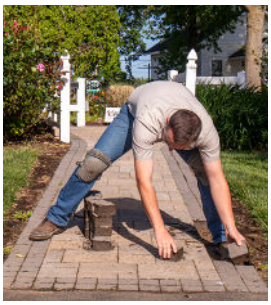
Finally, tamp the stones to ensure that they are compacted. Compacting causes the stones to form a tight bond with the bedding layer, which reduces the chance of your pavers moving again. Sweep joint sand into the joints between the pavers. Do this by pouring a pile of sand on your hardscape and sweep it over the stones until your joints can't hold any more sand.

REPAIRING FAILING EDGES

STEP 1:

Assess the problem

First, when navigating any paving stone repair, assess the problem so that you know exactly what's going on—and so you don't cause a bigger issue.



STEP 2:

Pull up the paving stones

Next, pull up the paving stones. We recommend that you pull up 12–16" past the problem area, in every direction, so that you'll retain a good reference for the grade. For more on how to pull a paver see page 21.

STEP 3:

Remove the bedding layer

Next, remove the exposed bedding layer by using a trowel (or a flat shovel) and scrape out excess sand. Make sure to leave a 2" barrier of bedding material around the edge of your problem area so you have a point-of-reference for how thick the base should be.

STEP 4:

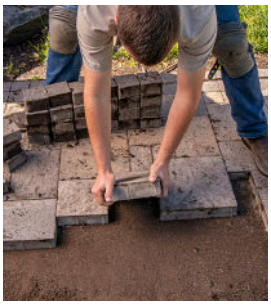
Remove the restraint

Next, remove any edge restraint around the problem area. To do this, take a pair of snap edge cutters (If you don't have snap edge cutters, you can use a hacksaw) and cut the edge restraint at the edge of your exposed area.

STEP 5:

Adjust the base

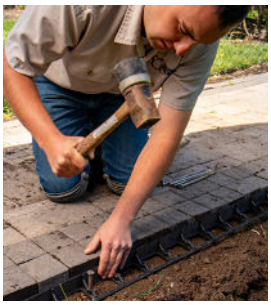
The next step is to fix the base by removing or adding gravel, as needed. Hand tamp the base material, making sure to compact it as much as possible. Next, add concrete sand and level it with a trowel making sure its consistently 1" deep.



STEP 6:

Re-lay the pavers

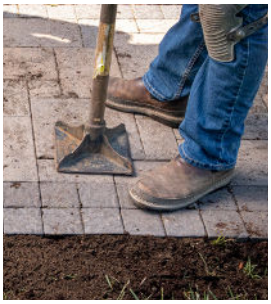
Re-lay the pavers as you would when installing a new hardscape using the click and drop method. If you knock the stones together before you lay them, you'll loosen any debris and increase the interlock of your stones.



STEP 7:

Replace the restraint

Next, install a new piece of edge restraint where the old piece was. Pull the bedding layer away to expose the base rock. Keep the edge restraint tight against the pavers and nail it down every second hole. Make sure to cover the edge restraint with dirt or sand when finished to prevent warping.



STEP 8:

Tamp and sweep

Finally, tamp the stones to ensure that they are compacted. Compacting causes the stones to form a tight bond with the bedding layer, which reduces the chance of your pavers sinking again. Sweep joint sand into the joints between the pavers. Do this by pouring a pile of sand on your hardscape and sweep it over the stones until your joints can't hold any more sand.

SEALERS AND OTHER PROTECTANTS

SEALER APPLICATION

Sealer is a great way to enhance your pavers and lengthen their lifespan. However, sealer is also the number one way to ruin your pavers. No need to worry though, if you follow the directions on the sealer bottle along with these three pro tips, you'll get the results you desire!

Keep an eye on the temperature

First, it is absolutely vital that the temperature be within the guidelines specified by the sealer manufacturer. Our rule of thumb is that it is best to apply sealer in the morning hours, while outside temperatures are between 60–70 degrees Fahrenheit. Too hot or too cold will result in sealer failure.

Cleanliness is key

Any dirt or stains that are on the surface of the pavers will be there forever if they're sealed over, so be sure to thoroughly clean your pavers before starting. For more info on cleaning your pavers, see pages 4-15.

Watch that moisture!

Moisture is the #1 enemy of sealer. The sealer traps the moisture which shows up as cloudiness under the sealer. To prevent this, be absolutely sure that your pavers are completely dry. The best way to verify that there's no moisture trapped in the joint sand or anywhere is to use our easy sealer moisture test.

After waiting at least for the manufacturer's recommended 24 hours, an easy way to be sure that the surface and sand joints are completely dry is to create a sort of miniature greenhouse over a small test area by taping down a small sheet of clear plastic. The plastic forms a natural greenhouse which warms the surface in the sun. Any moisture that evaporates from the additional warmth will be trapped inside the vapor barrier. If you tape down a sheet of plastic and leave it for at least 45 minutes in the sun, and you have no moisture under the plastic, your pavers should be dry enough to seal.

FIXING FAILED SEALER

Sometimes, sealers fail, usually for one of the reasons outlined on the previous page. What can be done to fix it? Use the guide below to get your sealer looking great again.

ISSUE	SOLVENT-BASED SEALER	WATER-BASED SEALER
Trapped Moisture	If you have moisture trapped under your pavers, you can release the moisture and reactivate your sealer using xylene. See instructions below. If xylene doesn't work, you'll need to strip the sealer off and start over. See instructions below for stripping sealer.	Once water-based sealers are applied, there's not much that can be done besides stripping off the sealer and starting over. See instructions below for stripping sealer. **DO NOT USE XYLENE ON WATER-BASED SEALERS!**
Wrinkles or Flaking	Applying sealer to a surface that is too hot will result in the sealer not being able to penetrate down into the surface which will result in wrinkles or flaking. To fix this, you can reactivate your sealer using xylene. See instructions below. If xylene doesn't work, you'll need to strip the sealer off and start over. See instructions below for stripping sealer.	
Blotchiness	Sometimes, sealer can appear blotchy over time due to various causes. Your best bet is to reactivate your sealer using xylene. See instructions below. If xylene doesn't work, you'll need to strip the sealer off and start over. See instructions below for stripping sealer.	

XYLENE

THIS IS NOT A METHOD FOR REMOVING SEALER. It only works to rectify whitening solvent-based sealers.

Xylene is extremely hazardous, so be sure to wear the appropriate personal protective equipment and be sure to eliminate all potential sources of ignition before starting. It is best to work on a cool, overcast day with no wind.

You will need a solvent resistant roller with a long handle, a metal roller pan, a natural bristle broom and some xylene.

Dampen the roller with xylene and apply it to the problem area. Work in manageable sections that you can reach with a long handled roller. Allow the xylene to work for approximately 1-2 minutes. Surface temperatures will either speed this up or slow it down. Roll evenly and consistently, being careful not to leave roller marks or air bubbles. If the sealer has been over applied, you may need to gently scrub the surface with the broom for maximum effectiveness. Remove broom marks by going back over the area with the roller again.

Continue working in manageable sections, repeating this process over the entire area. A solvent resistant brush may be helpful in reaching difficult areas.

Allow the xylene and sealer to completely dry. It may be necessary to repeat the process to achieve the desired results.

STRIPPING SEALER

We recommend using biodegradable paint stripper to help prevent damage to your plants and grass. Follow the paint stripper manufacturer's instructions and use a hot water pressure washer to remove the sealer. For more information on pressure washers and pavers see page 5.

Once you've stripped off all of the faulty sealer, reapply fresh sealer following your sealer manufacturer's instructions and our pro tips outlined on the previous page.

WINTER CARE

SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL

While winter in the majority of the PNW largely consists of rain, rain and more rain, occasionally we get more severe winter weather. Here's how to handle snow and ice when it happens or if you live somewhere that has a real winter.

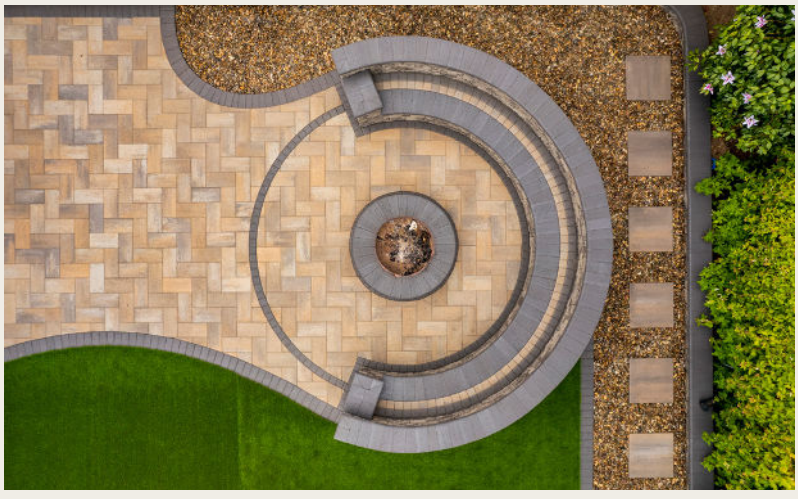
Your pavers are made from dry-cast concrete, so they can be plowed and shoveled just like other forms of pavement. Salts and other de-icing agents should not harm your pavers if used correctly. Apply de-icers only on top of snow or ice, never directly to the surface of the pavers as a preemptive measure, as this can damage the pavers over time.

It is recommended that any and all snow removal equipment use either Teflon™ or rubber blades rather than metal to avoid scratching the pavers.

GET PROFESSIONAL HELP

LET US HELP YOU FIND QUALIFIED LOCAL CONTRACTORS

Not comfortable doing the maintenance yourself? Let us connect you with qualified professionals in your local area who can get your hardscape looking great!



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