

Hardscaping & Paver Department

Cleaning Your Patio or Walkways

Just as we wash, clean and polish our fine furniture or wood floors, our outdoor living spaces and walkways need the same care and protection to keep them looking like new. In fact, perhaps even more so since unlike your interior surfaces, your outdoor surfaces are exposed to the elements and organic issues such as rotting leaves, moss or dirt.

At Gasper, we recommend SRW and Prosoco products for cleaning our client's patios and walkways. SRW's entire focus is the hardscape industry so their products are tailored to be safe, effective and to offer a variety of choices. Prosoco is one of the most respected and oldest names for the care and cleaning of masonry and natural stone.

Tips for Cleaning New Patios after Installation

For ground in dirt from installation:

Gently power wash. If there is stubborn dirt, use Prosoco 2010 All Surface Cleaner which is an acid free detergent (or similar product) applied with an acid brush.

Removing efflorescence:

Efflorescence is the white powder-like residue that sometimes appears on concrete products, bricks and other natural stones. It does not affect the structural integrity of the material and will wash and wear off over time. Sometimes efflorescence can surface and stick around especially on a new installation in the dry season. The best way to deal with this process is to let the pavers naturally effloresce for the first few months.



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After about the first 3-4 months the pavers should have breathed out most of the efflorescence or most of the deposits should have come to the surface and also have given newer pavers time to fully cure. You are then ready to access whether or not a cleaner is needed. If the efflorescence is still obvious after a few months, then an efflorescence cleaner should be considered.



SRW's Efflorescence cleaner is an acid based cleaner and one of the most user-friendly cleaners on the market. It is already diluted so there is no need to worry about the mixing ratio and making it too strong or weak. Using an acid brush put the cleaner in bucket. Starting with your highest point, thoroughly wet area with water. The point of saturating the areas being cleaned is to ensure that the cleaner stays on the surface and does not work its way into the paver as much as possible. Starting with a 10' x10' area and all vegetation around it so that your plants are not thirsty. Scrub the area thoroughly, then rinse well until slight sudsing effect is done. Repeat this process until all of your pavers have been cleaned. The product should not be left on any longer than it takes to apply to a 10'x10' area. Allow the pavers to dry and see if it needs a second application or if any areas need to be spot cleaned.

Cleaning new wetcast pavers:



There is a type of paver that is made differently than most pavers which is called Wetcast. You can usually tell it is Wetcast because it will have a tight, smooth to the touch surface, often times textured to look like natural stone and is usually about 1 5/8" thick (thinner than the average 2 3/8" paver). These pavers are poured out of molds that are sprayed with a releasing agent. New installations should be rinsed down using SRW Wetcast Clean. (This is not an efflorescence cleaner. Acid based cleaners are not recommended for Wetcast and should only be used if absolutely necessary.)

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Removing the releasing agent help to allow the paver to breath out efflorescence and later if sealing is desired will make sure the surface is clear of residual oils. Dilute the product with 50% warm water. Starting at the highest point saturate no larger than a 10'x10' area (it is important that the area not dry out during the cleaning process so a cooler or overcast day is best for this kind of cleaning). It is ok to spray a little more fresh water down to keep the area wet while scrubbing with cleaner. The cleaner can be put in a sprinkler can and poured directly onto the surface and then scrubbed with a stiff bristle brush. Let the product sit for 5 minutes, while carefully keeping wet and then scrub once more. Then thoroughly rinse area before moving on to another area.

Tips for cleaning old patios or walkways:

For projects that have been down for a long time there are a variety of reasons we may need to clean – different types of stains, sprucing up or mold and mildew.

Oil and grease spots:

Our hardscape store has SRW's Cleaner and Degreaser and Sure Klean's Oil and Grease Stain Remover. Prosoco Oil and Grease Stain Remover is a poultice and can be poured directly onto the stained areas without pre-wetting. Work in with a stiff bristle brush. This goes on as a paste and should be allowed to dry and then it can be swept away or be allowed to let Mother Nature wash it away. SRW's Cleaner and Degreaser is more of a rinse. Depending on the gravity of the stain it can be diluted or not. This also goes onto the surface when it is dry to allow it to penetrate as deeply as possible. It can then be flushed away with fresh water. Multiple applications may be necessary. Certain types of grease and oil can be difficult to remove especially if the stain has been there for a long time.



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Sometimes a good combination can be to apply the poultice to the area which will draw as much of the oil or grease to the surface (following above directions) and then use the rinse to remove any left over residue. In some cases, it may be necessary to consider replacing some of the severely stained pavers.

Organic staining:

These stains are usually left from leaves and plant matter that has been allowed to sit on the pavers, decompose and have left marks on the surface of the pavers. These stains can usually be removed by a simple mixture of bleach, water and a little dish soap or a paste mixture of oxyclean. Wet the areas to be cleaned and then apply the cleaner with an acid brush and scrub vigorously. You can also use SWR Organic Stain Remover.

Food, drink and wine stains:

Address as quickly as possible. Rinse and wash with dish soap and water using an acid stiff bristled scrub brush. Difficult, set in or older stains can be cleaned with Sure Klean 2010 all surface cleaner or SRW Organic Stain Remover

Mold, moss and mildew:

Some patios are prone to having issues with this type of growth. Often these patios don't get a lot of direct sunlight and are close to water or installed in lower elevations on the property and the project holds moisture longer which promotes this type of growth. Use SRW Mold, Moss and Mildew cleaner. Dilute 1 part cleaner to 5 parts water. Spray this onto the surface on a dry day when rain is not in the forecast for at least 24 hours. Do not pre-wet. Allow it to sit for up to a week. Rain and wind will carry away most of the powder. At the end of the week, if necessary, you can scrub and wash away what is left. This is environmentally friendly and actually good for your vegetation.

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Rust removal:

SRW Rust Eliminator will remove stubborn stains from hard water, iron deposits and metallic stains. Wet the stain and area around it. While still wet scrub stain with undiluted cleaner. Make sure the area does not dry out while cleaning. Rinse thoroughly with water. Stubborn stains may need additional treatments. This product is for Concrete, Pavers and Masonry (not for use on natural stone).



Basic overall cleaning:

Gentle power washing. Take care not to remove joint material. For stubborn dirt and grime use an all-purpose cleaner like the Prosoco 2010 All Surface Cleaner or even a quick application SRW Paver Wash (not for use on natural stone or sealed surfaces).

Products listed in article (Available at our Hardscape Department)

- SRW Efflorescence Remover
- Prosoco 2010 All Surface Cleaner
- SRW Cleaner and Degreaser
- Prosoco Oil and Grease Stain Remover
- SRW Mold, Moss and Mildew cleaner
- SWR Organic Stain Remover
- SRW Paver Wash
- SRW Rust Eliminator
- SRW Wetcast Clean