

v14 Cleaning & Maintenance Advice



General Cleaning & Maintenance Advice

Tobermore manufacture concrete paving products of a consistently high quality for commercial and residential projects. We make all our concrete products in the UK using aggregates from our own quarry and import only the best materials, so you can be satisfied with the quality and traceability of our products. Our paving is extremely hardwearing, has excellent density, durability and colour retention. As with all paving some basic maintenance will be required to keep your paving looking it's best. A regular maintenance regime will ensure your paving looks great for many years.

Warning: EasyClean products should not be pressure washed. Please refer to specific EasyClean information

General Cleaning Advice

Simply washing your paving can ensure it always looks great.

To keep your newly installed paving looking at its best at all times and to ensure you get many years of use from your investment, some regular basic cleaning will be required. A lack of cleaning will allow your paving to deteriorate and look dirty, masking its true beauty.

Regular brushing is recommended to remove dirt, leaves and detritus. If the colour of the paving is being masked by dirt and detritus we suggest using hot water, **ECOPROTEC PH Neutral General Cleaner** and a stiff brush. By doing this you can significantly improve the appearance of the paving. Certain types and colours of paving may require a bit more care and attention than others to ensure they always look great. For example, light coloured paving blocks and flags may emphasize tyre marks, oil spills and dirt more than darker colours. It is likely that these colours will require slightly more maintenance if the overall appearance is to be maintained.

A pressure washer can also be used if required.

The difference can be amazing!

Advice when using a Pressure Washer

Pressure washers are now an everyday household item and when used correctly they can be great for keeping your paving in pristine condition. However, when used aggressively they can cause damage to the paving surface.

A light pressure washer set at medium pressure is generally all that is required to clean general dirt and grime. High pressure should not be used. A trial area should be tested before large scale pressure washing takes place.

Any jointing sand which is removed during pressure washing must be replaced (jointing sand is available from Tobermore and Builders Merchants in 25kg bags).

General Tips:

- Direct pointing of the lance at the paving should be avoided as this can damage the product and cause the removal of jointing sand.
- Hold the lance at an angle of between 30 and 45 degrees to the paving surface.
- After cleaning is finished the area should be inspected and any jointing sand which has been lost should be replaced (available from Tobermore).

Removing Efflorescence

Efflorescence is a temporary phenomenon that may slightly lighten the surface colour of concrete paving and walling products and is sometimes mistaken for colour fading. It occurs when moisture, either from rainfall or from saturated ground conditions, penetrates the concrete and dissolves naturally occurring salts within the material. As this moisture migrates to the surface and evaporates, the dissolved



salts are left behind and crystallise, forming a visible residue. Tobermore utilises market-leading manufacturing technology designed to significantly reduce the likelihood of efflorescence occurring. However, it is a natural process associated with all cement-based products.

Efflorescence typically appears as a white deposit but may occasionally present as light brown or yellow staining. While it can temporarily mask the true colour of the product, it will gradually diminish and disappear over time through natural weathering and rainfall therefore we recommend letting nature take its course. If you prefer to remove it you can use **ECOPROTEC Cement, Grout & Salt Remover**. This is a specially formulated cleaner for use on acid sensitive surfaces. Dilute 1:1 with clean water and apply to the surface, agitate the surface to release the efflorescence salts. Rinse off with clean water and leave to dry.

Moss, Lichen and Algae

For general cleaning of algae we suggest using **ECOPROTEC Blackspot & Algae Remover** and a stiff brush. After cleaning we recommend that the area is thoroughly rinsed with clean water.

Repeated treatment may be required for paved areas sited beneath trees or in permanent/hear permanent shade.

Thick growths of moss or lichen must be removed first by scraping out the joints and then treating the area with a moss killer such as Anti-moss paving cleaner or similar. Anti-moss paving cleaners are designed to remove moss, lichens and algae. These cleaners generally kill the moss which is then easily brushed off the paving. Some moss cleaning products will leave a residue in the sand joints which help to reduce the likelihood of re-growth. The cleaning product manufacturer's instructions should always be followed.

Weeds

Large weeds should be removed by hand and then the area treated with a weed killer e.g. Weedol or Pathclear (available from Garden Centres). Smaller weeds can be treated directly with the weed killer and these weeds should start to die within days. Manufacturers instructions should always be followed.

Leaves, Berries and Fruits.

Stains caused by leaves and berries can be difficult to remove from paving surfaces especially when they are left for long periods and allowed to dry into the surface. One option that can be tried is to use **ECOPROTEC Intensive Cleaner**. Thoroughly wet the whole area to be cleaned with clean water and then spray the cleaner over the entire surface using a light pressure sprayer. Use a stiff deck brush to gently scrub the paving. Leave for 15-20 minutes and then wash down the entire area with clean water. Take care to ensure that the run-off does not go into vegetation.

For stubborn stains like black spot, white spot and lichen use **ECOPROTEC Black Spot & Algae Remover**

Warning: Always follow the cleaning product manufacturers instructions and wear protective clothing especially when handling intensive cleaners.

Winter Maintenance

De-icing salts are used to melt the ice on our roads, driveways, pathways and patios keeping them clear and making us safe!

White rock salt is an effective and readily available de-icer and is best suited to decorative paving on patios and driveways. Please note white rock salt may leave a white salt stain on the paving after the ice has thawed but this is quickly washed away by the rain.

Brown coloured de-icing grit has been used on public areas and roads in the UK and Ireland for many years. It can also be used on driveways and paths etc. however please note it may leave a brown stain on the paving. This is usually quickly washed away by rain after the ice has thawed.

It is good practice to rinse off the pavers with lots of clean water to remove any salt left on the surface. We feel if used only occasionally and responsibly there should be no adverse effect by using white rock salt or brown grit salt on paving.

Soft Drinks/Beer/Wine

The majority of stains caused by soft drinks, wine or beer can usually be removed simply by scrubbing the area using hot water and **ECOPROTEC PH Neutral General Cleaner**. Rinse the area with clean water after washing.

ECOPROTEC Products can be purchased online from www.ECOPROTEC.co.uk

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Rust Staining - Fertilisers (Ferrous Sulphate)

Extreme care should be taken to avoid accidental staining when using garden fertilisers which contain Ferrous Sulphate on lawns or gardens which are next to paved areas. Over spray from lawns or even walking these fertilisers onto the paving can cause a rust stain. If using fertilisers ensure that any paving is covered and protected.

Rust Staining - Caused by Metal (Plant Pots, Garden Furniture, BBQs, etc.)

Rust stains on paving can come from water running off metal garden furniture, metal BBQ's and metal plant pots. The water allows iron particles to wash onto the paving surface causing a rust stain.

Rust stains are very difficult to remove. This is because the pigments which are used to give concrete products their colour in the manufacturing process contain iron oxides, so if you were to use chemical cleaning products they may affect both the rust and the pigmentation (colour) of the paving.

Use a non-caustic solution to remove this type of staining ***ECOPROTEC Rust Stain Remover***. Apply to the stain and wait for the oxide to turn a deep purple colour. This is the marker that confirms that the orange oxide is breaking down. Agitate and then extract. Do not wash away with water. Repeat until the orange stain has disappeared. Deep particles of iron in the paving may remain a little purple, but this will fade in the days that follow treatment.

Iron Breakout

Iron breakout based staining, though rare, can sometimes appear as orange, yellow, or brown discoloration on the surface of paving materials. This phenomenon can occur for several reasons.

One potential cause is the presence of natural minerals in some kiln-dried jointing sands. These minerals may leach out when the sand becomes wet, particularly in areas with lighter-colored paving products, making the staining more noticeable. Additionally, such minerals can also be present in the bedding materials, and when drawn up through the paving, they can leave visible stains on the surface.

Another contributing factor could be the naturally occurring pyrites in the aggregates used to manufacture concrete paving. When these pyrites oxidize, they can cause orange, yellow, or brown discoloration to form on the surface. To reverse these effects use ***ECOPROTEC Iron Stain Away*** and to help prevent the stains from returning apply 1 or 2 coats of ***ECOPROTEC Patio Sealer***.

Oil Stains

Oil spills can quickly penetrate the surface of concrete paving products. If absorbed promptly staining can be greatly reduced or avoided. Paper towels, cloths or other fast absorbing materials such as clay based cat litters can be used to absorb the oil.

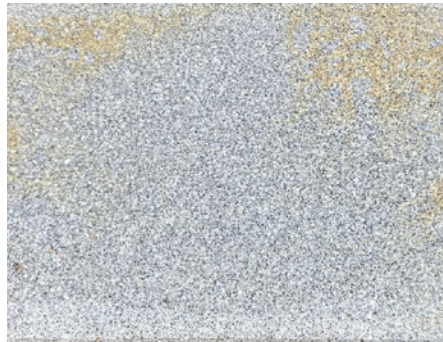
Do **NOT** wipe the stain as this will only spread the spillage over a larger area.

If residual staining remains after the initial oil absorption, you can apply ***ECOPROTEC Intensive Cleaner*** along with hot water. Use a stiff brush to agitate the stain, ensuring that the cleaning solution's strength does not compromise the integrity or color of the paving surface.

If the stain persists, stronger degreasing agents, such as Gunk or similar products, may be necessary. Always adhere to the manufacturer's instructions for any cleaning product used and thoroughly rinse the paving with clean water afterwards. In some cases, oil stains may be impossible to fully remove. If this occurs, the only viable solution may be to replace the affected paving.

Tyre Marks

Tyre marks can be removed by scrubbing with hot water and ***ECOPROTEC Intensive Cleaner***. If the marks still remain they may require a professional company to perform a steam clean. Important: Light coloured paving can emphasise tyre marks, it must be accepted that light colours will require more maintenance if the overall appearance is to be maintained.



Chewing Gum

Chewing gum is notoriously difficult to remove from all hard surfaces. A scraper can be used to remove gum which has been newly discarded however the removal of gum which has been allowed to harden over time will require freezing or hot steaming and chiselling.

Paint Spillages

Paint can be extremely difficult to remove from any hard surface.

Freshly spilt paint can be dealt with by using absorbent paper towels or cloths. Do not wipe the paint as this will spread it over a wider area.

The remaining paint can then be treated with non-caustic ***ECOPROTEC Joint Residue Remover***.

Ensure that the area is washed down with plenty of clean water after treatment. Paint which has dried will be easier to remove. Apply the remover, wait 20 minutes, scrub or scrape to remove the softened paint. Wipe away. Repeat until the paint has been removed.

Residues of cement free jointing compound

Residues left on the surface after single part resin brush in jointing compounds have been used is called 'Polymeric haze or Amine Blush'. It is a reaction between the resin hardener, moisture and carbon dioxide from the air. It can appear as a hazy, cloudy, whitish film on the surface of the paving. To remove it use ***ECOPROTEC Joint Residue Remover***. Apply directly, leave for 20 – 30 minutes to soften the surface residues. Scrub to release them from the surface and then rinse down with water. Repeat until the residue has been fully removed.

Paving Protection

It is important to note that Tobermore does not mandate the use of sealers in combination with their paving products. However, the application of sealers can offer several benefits, such as providing an additional layer of protection against staining. Available sealer options include ***ECOPROTEC Patio Sealer***, which delivers a natural finish.

It is important to recognize that periodic reapplication of the sealer may be required, depending on traffic, environmental conditions, and wear levels. Always adhere to the manufacturer's instructions when applying any sealing product. Before proceeding with full-scale application, it is highly recommended to test the sealer on a small, inconspicuous area to assess compatibility and ensure satisfaction with the finish.

Health & Safety

This document provides advice on how to maintain paving. Some of the guidance involves using chemical cleaning products and chemicals which can be dangerous if not handled correctly. We strongly recommend that the manufacturer's instructions on these products and chemicals is followed correctly and that protective clothing including footwear, gloves and glasses are always worn.

Other precautions which must be taken are:

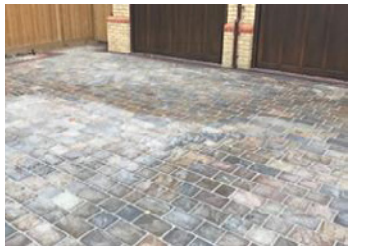
- Always clean / treat a small inconspicuous area first to check the effectiveness before cleaning a large area.
- Do not use naked flames near flammable products
- Ensure adequate ventilation if using chemicals
- Safely dispose of any clothing which has become contaminated
- Cover adjoining surfaces to prevent overspill and damage
- Take care when using chemicals if pets are present

Disclaimer

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Rust Stain Remover

Removes surface rust stains.

- Fast acting
- Non-caustic and non-acidic formula



Iron Stain Away

A cleaner for removing orange / brown stains caused by naturally occurring iron pyrites.

- Helps prevent iron staining from returning



Cement, Grout and Salt Residue Remover

A rapid action cleaning agent for removing cement residues and efflorescence.



Intensive Cleaner

Helps remove ground-in dirt and grime.

- Stain Remover - including oil, grease, dirt, detritus and tanning



Joint Residue Remover

A low reactive formula that softens hard to remove epoxy, acrylic and silicone residues left by cement free brush in jointing compounds making removal easier.

- Powerful non-caustic
- Low odour
- High performance remover



Colour Enhancing Sealer

A water-based impregnating sealer provides an enhanced natural finish. Allows surface to breathe.



PH Neutral General Cleaner

A gentle PH-neutral cleaner.



Black Spot and Algae Remover

Helps the removal of black spots, lichen, moss and stains from concrete paving.

- Ready to use deep cleaning solution
- Keeps your patio, pathway or driveway looking their best all year round



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UK: ECOPROTEC products can be purchased online at www.ecoprotec.co.uk

IRELAND: ECOPROTEC products can be purchased from Redwing Engineering Ltd, Dublin Road, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland
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Paving



Walling & Retaining Walls



Facing Brick

