

## CONCRETE DRIVEWAY CARE

When properly installed and maintained, concrete is a durable building material that can last for years. Concrete is a strong material that wears well, however, similar to other building materials care must be taken with its use and maintenance is required.

With a little care and attention concrete can provide years of service. In addition to the materials provided to you by your builder, the following basic care and maintenance steps should be taken by a home owner with a concrete driveway or patio.

### General

- Do not drive or park on new concrete for at least seven (7) days.
- Do not park or drive heavy or commercial vehicles, including large moving trucks, on residential driveways.
- Keep rain and snow run-off and excessive hose water away from concrete as the soil below or beside the driveway can become destabilized.
- Remove leaves promptly as some foliage can stain concrete.
- Do not use acids to remove stains or clean concrete.
- Excessive pressure from pressure washers can damage concrete surfaces. Using a stiff broom and concrete cleaner may be preferable.
- Keep fertilizers away from and off driveways.

### Winter Time

- Promptly remove snow or ice from driveways.
- Do not allow snow or ice to accumulate on driveways.
- Do not use de-icing chemicals or salt on driveways. De-icers are used to melt snow or ice, however, these chemicals can cause deterioration of the concrete. Using sand, although it will not melt the snow, is an alternative.
- De-icers that contain Salt, Calcium Chloride, *Ammonium Nitrate*, *Ammonium Sulphates* and *Magnesium Chloride* are especially damaging to concrete.
- Brush away / remove road ice and slush, that could contain de-icing chemicals, from driveways especially around the road apron and where vehicles park.

Ensure a quality concrete sealer has been applied following driveway placement and annually as it will help to protect and maintain the concrete. Your builder may or may not have applied a concrete sealer. When regularly applied to a concrete surface, these protective coatings limit absorption. Sealers can be purchased at hardware stores and are available in different finishes. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when applying a sealer.

**\*DAMAGE FROM SALTS, DE-ICERS, OR FERTILIZERS INCLUDING MELT-OFF SLUSH FROM VEHICLES IS NOT COVERED BY WARRANTY\***