



PAVER CARE GUIDELINES

Your new paver project has been installed using polymeric joint sand designed to harden, reduce weed growth, and resist washout. While this product significantly improves durability and appearance, proper care is essential to maximize its performance and lifespan.

Overview:

We used Nitro Gator Sand as the joint material in your paver patio. Polymeric sand like Nitro Gator is designed for durability but requires maintenance and care to keep it looking its best.

First 30 Days:

Keep joints stable while sand fully cures

- Avoid heavy foot traffic for the first 24-48 hours
- Do not pressure wash or aggressively clean
- Minimize water saturation beyond normal rainfall
- Avoid dragging furniture across the surface

Why it Matters:

Polymeric sand cures by activating binding agents with moisture. Disturbing it early can weaken joints and lead to premature erosion.

Routine Maintenance :

1. Cleaning

- Use a leaf blower or broom to regularly remove debris
- Light rinsing with a hose is fine
- For deeper cleaning, use a low-pressure wash (under ~1,500 PSI)
 - Keep nozzle at least 12" away
 - Avoid directing water directly into joints

2. Weed & Moss Prevention

- Polymeric sand reduces weeds but does not make the surface 100% weed-proof
- Remove any growth early before roots establish
- Spot treat with a mild weed control if needed (avoid overuse)

3. Stain Prevention

- Clean spills (oil, grease, food) promptly
- Use cleaners specifically safe for pavers (Dish Soap and Water typically works)
- Avoid harsh chemicals that can break down joint sand

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Seasonal Care:

Spring

- Inspect for any joint erosion after winter
- Lightly reapply sand in any low or open joints

Summer

- Monitor for weed growth and clean regularly
- Rinse dust and pollen buildup as needed

Fall

- Keep leaves off surface to prevent staining
- Ensure joints are intact before winter freeze

Winter

- Use plastic shovels (not metal) for snow removal
 - Avoid rock salt when possible; opt for calcium-based deicers
 - Do not chip ice aggressively - this can damage joints and pavers
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Joint Sand Touch Ups:

Over time, small areas of joint sand may need to be replenished.

When to reapply:

- Visible gaps between pavers
- Sand sits noticeably below paver edges
- Increased weed presence

Basic process:

- Clean and dry the area
- Sweep new polymeric sand into joints
- Remove excess from surface
- Mist with water to activate per instructions

Pressure Washing Guidelines:

- Use *low pressure and wide fan tip*
- Avoid direct, concentrated spray into joints
- Some sand loss is normal
- Resand afterwards as needed

What to Avoid:

- High pressure washing directly into joints
- Harsh chemical cleaners or acids
- Dragging heavy objects across pavers
- Letting water pool for extended periods
- Ignoring joint erosion over time

Without proper care pavers may shift over time, weeds and moss may establish, and joint erosion can occur. A quick annual inspection + minor re-sanding can *extend the life of your patio by years and keep it looking like new with minimal cost.*

Paver Sealing and Routine Maintenance:

Most paver products have been sealed during manufacturing, eliminating any need to seal after installation. If your pavers were not manufactured with sealer and you choose to seal your paver for color enhancement or stain protection, you will need to re-seal every three to five years.

Tips for Sealing Pavers:

- Water or Solvent Based Sealers are your two main sealer options with a gloss or matte finish
 - Solvent Based is recommended, however whichever option you choose stick with it
 - High gloss sealer will enhance the color of your pavers
 - Matte sealer is less noticeable and protects your pavers
- Clean pavers before sealing using a mild, non-acidic soap
 - For harsh stains, efflorescence or rust try using 1 part bleach and 3 parts water to clean
- A critical component of re-sealing includes consistency with the sealer - choosing the same sealer as originally applied - so that proper bonding occurs
 - Failure to do this may result in a chemical reaction that will turn the sealant milky
 - If you don't know which sealer was previously applied try a small test of an obscure area of pavers and see how it reacts
- It's also critical that the surface be completely dry before applying any sealant or you risk interference with the bond and a white residue may be visible