



Maintenance Guidelines  
for concrete products

# Maintenance Guidelines for Concrete Products

Hanover® Prest® Pavers, Prest® Bricks and Masonry units are fabricated to meet and/or exceed the industries highest standards. When Hanover® products are installed properly, they require very little maintenance and provide an attractive and durable surface for many years.

Under normal use, pavers will be exposed to dirt, stains and wear that is common to all types of pavement surfaces. This guide will assist you in maintaining your pavers' original appearance and will prolong the life of the installation. This is only a guide. If you have a condition that is not mentioned in the following instructions, please contact a Hanover® Sales Representatives for more information.



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## General Cleaning of Pavers

This type of cleaning is typically performed weekly or monthly to remove general dirt and debris from the paver surface.

1. Use a standard garden hose and a stiff bristle brush (nylon is preferred) to hose down and scrub the pavers. This method will allow you to free and loosen any general dirt from the surface and rinse away.
2. For areas where you have ground in dirt, follow the instruction above. In addition, use a mild detergent to help release some of these dirt particles. The areas that typically get excessive dirt build up are at entry areas and those of foot traffic.

**Please Note:** When hosing down the paved area, be sure not to concentrate spray directly into the joints. This will wash out the joint sand, which is necessary to maintain a tight installation.

## Efflorescence

**What is efflorescence?** It is a whitish powder-like deposit which sometimes appears on concrete or clay products. The deposit is the residue of a soluble salt carried to the face of the product by moisture and left on the surface as a dry powder following evaporation of the moisture. The phenomenon was reported on as early as the 1870's. Efflorescence of itself in no way affects structural integrity.

**Where do the salts come from?** The salts are found in either the native soil, the gravel base or in the sand, stone or cement used to manufacture the paving stones.

**How does it happen?** These salts dissolve in either the ground water, rain water or water added to mix the concrete. The salt moves upward with the moisture to the drying surface by capillary action. In the basement walls, this capillary action has been measured to be as much as 600 mm. Because the sun evaporates the moisture at the surface, this capillary wicking action continues to draw moisture from below. The efflorescence continues until either the salt or moisture supply has been exhausted.

**How is it removed?** Efflorescence will wash and wear off in the course of time. The recommended procedure is to allow this natural process to take place.

However, if you would like to speed up the process, it can be removed by washing the pavers with a mild cleaning solution. (Cleaning solutions can be purchased from your Hanover® distributor - be sure to follow manufacturer's instructions since the cleaners can be harmful). A small unobtrusive area should be treated first to ensure results are acceptable since the cleaning solution may expose aggregate on the paver's surface leading to a lessening of the color mass.

No responsibility can be accepted by the paving stone manufacturers for efflorescence since any normal concrete contains calcium hydroxide which is inevitable when cement and/or lime and water are mixed together. Calcium hydroxide combines with carbon dioxide in the air to form calcium carbonate which then appears as a whitish deposit, efflorescence.

## Common Stains/Treatments

Stains	Treatment
1. Oil and grease	Soak up excess oil with rags. Then cover with an oil absorbent material, like kitty litter. Leave on stain for 24-48 hours, and then sweep dry. Another option would be to apply a 100% pure citrus degreaser, directly to stain, and then blot up with a rag and hose area down.
2. Chewing Gum	Apply small amount of dry ice and then scrape off with a putty knife or apply 100% pure citrus degreaser, apply directly to gum marks and scrape off.
3. Paint	Use rags to remove excess paint by blotting, do not wipe, it will spread the paint around. If the paint is a latex, water based, soak with hot water and scrub by using detergent with a stiff bristled brush. Rinse periodically, repeat as necessary. Oil, paint and sealer remover is a specialized cleaner that can be applied after oil-based paint has dried. Follow manufactures instructions.
4. Leaf and Wood Rot	Apply household bleach and scrub with a stiff bristled brush.
5. Mortar	Try to remove immediately with a garden hose. If that is not possible, let it harden and remove with a scraper or putty knife.
6. Tobacco	Apply household bleach and scrub with a stiff bristled brush.
7. Rust Stains	Directly apply Rust Stain remover to the effected spots to lift these types of stains. Contact Hanover® for specific material.
8. Grease drippings from food, ketchup, mustard	Apply general concrete paver cleaner to these types of stains. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on side of container.
9. Clay Soils	Scrap off the dry built-up material with putty knife, scrub and rinse off with hot water. A detergent may be necessary to release the stain.
10. Tar	Apply 100% pure citrus degreaser. Apply directly to stain, blot up with a rag and then hose area down.
11. Tree Sap	Apply 100% pure citrus degreaser. Apply directly to stain, blot up with a rag and then hose area down.
12. Concrete dust from cutting	Rinse immediately with water and/or use a cleaner designed for cleaning concrete pavers.

**Please Note:** If the stains are severe and cannot be removed, pavers can be replaced with new materials. Unlike other paving materials, concrete pavers will not have the extreme unsightly patch marks.

## Snow Removal

Snow can be removed from both on-grade applications as well as plaza deck installations. We would suggest the use of shovels or walk behind snow blowers. Please be sure to use rubber or nylon tip equipment, this will help prevent scratches and/or scars in the pavers. If you use a snow blower, do not use chains on the tires. They could cause damage to the face of the pavers.

Where Hanover® Prest® Bricks are used for vehicular application, you can use standard plowing procedures. Plow should have a standard rubber tip to reduce the scaring of the pavers. The use of chains on the tires is discouraged.

De-icing materials are detrimental to all building materials. These chemicals should be used sparingly and with caution on Hanover® Pavers. Rock salts should not be used at all. If you do use any de-icing materials, please be sure to clean the pavers, as directed above, under the General Cleaning of pavers section. Contact Hanover® for recommended de-icing material.



## Sealing Pavers

Pavers are designed to be a low maintenance investment. However, to protect your pavers and to intensify the color you may seal them. Hanover® would suggest doing a complete cleaning prior to sealing the units. Any major stains must be removed first with a specialized cleaner designed for that type of stain. Then the entire area will need to be cleaned with a general cleaner. A newly cleaned pavement is the most opportune time to seal your pavers, if so desired. The pavers must be completely dry, clean and free of oil, grease, dust, dirt, sand, efflorescence, and frost. We advise that sealers not be applied when temperatures are 50 degrees and below. Hanover® Intensifier Sealer and Hanover® Natural Sealer will allow breathability of the pavers and can enhance or deepen the color depending on type of sealer used. Sealers will protect against oil, dirt penetration and acid rain on the paver surface, making the pavers easier to clean.

## Hanover® Sealers

Hanover® offers two types of sealers, Hanover® Intensifying Sealer and Hanover® Natural Sealer.

**Hanover® Intensifying Sealer** is a solvent based sealer and will deepen the appearance of pavers while still allow the pavers to breathe. (Meets VOC requirements in all 50 states)

**Hanover® Natural Sealer** is a water-based sealer, which will enhance the appearance of the pavers, but not darken them like the Intensifying Sealer.

Please refer to our tech data forms for complete information about both of these products.



Hanover® Architectural Products disclaims responsibility or liability in any manner from discoloration or adverse reaction from any chemicals applied to Hanover® pavers. The above are only suggestions that have worked on past projects. Please consider all surrounding buildings, vegetation and local codes when using any type of chemicals. Follow all manufacture instructions for application, handling and usage amounts from the container/bag of the products you are using.

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