

## BLOCK PAVING SEALER FAQs

### What is the benefit of applying a block paving sealer?

Depending on the sealer used, these are some of the benefits of applying a sealer

- Further enhances the block paving colour
- Protects against penetration of oil and other stains
- Reduces weeds and algae growth
- Stabilises the sand in the joints

### Which sealer should I use?

There are many different sealers available to purchase. Acrylic and Polyurethane paving sealers are considered the best type to use with block paving.

Sealers range in price from very cheap to more expensive products. The cheaper sealers tend to be manufactured using lower quality materials and generally do not perform as well as the more expensive sealers. Look for products manufactured to the highest standards and are BS 5750 & ISO9000 approved.

### What is needed to apply a sealer?

- Roller and tray / suitable sprayer
- Pressure washer
- Brush/broom
- Kiln Dried Jointing Sand
- Sealer
- Protective clothing, goggles, gloves and facemask

### When is the best time to apply a sealer?

**New block paving:** Each manufacturer will have their own recommended time to apply their sealer; however, it is very important to allow any moisture or efflorescence that may be present in the blocks or jointing material to disperse before sealing. This can take anywhere between two and six months. Both the blocks and the jointing material should be completely dry prior to applying any sealer.

**Old block paving:** Old existing block paving must be completely washed prior to sealing. Allow two weeks after cleaning before applying a sealer and ensure that both the blocks and the jointing material are completely dry prior to applying any sealer. If any jointing material is washed out of the joints during the cleaning process, top up joints with new material prior to sealing the paving.

**Caution:** If you have existing paving that has already had a paving sealer applied any new sealer may not properly adhere. This can lead to the new sealer peeling off from the old sealed surface. Most sealer manufacturers provide special thinners to remove the old sealer.

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### **How is Block Paving Sealer Applied?**

Most sealers are applied by using a roller and tray. For quicker application, sprayers can be used. Always check to ensure that the sealer is compatible with a spray application.

It is always best to apply a sealer on a warm, dry day. Rain or cold weather can prevent the sealer from drying and adhering. Ideally, it is best if you have a period of two or three warm / dry days as you may require 24 hours between coats and a final day to allow it to fully dry. When you apply any block paving sealer, always follow the manufacturers' guidance.

### **Will my block paving look shiny once a sealer has been applied?**

This will depend on the type of sealer you have chosen. There are matt, satin and glossy finishes available. Generally speaking, how the paving looks when it is damp is how it will look once a sealer has been applied.

### **How long will the sealer last?**

The life expectancy of good quality block paving sealers is generally between 5-7 years. However, the timescale can vary for several reasons - the amount of paving sealer initially applied, use by traffic and exposure to sunlight. For instance, a north-facing driveway which receives limited sunlight exposure will require re-sealing more frequently than a south facing driveway.

### **How easy will it be to clean off any stains after a sealer has been applied?**

Sealers make the block surface less porous, which makes stains easier to remove. In most cases, hot soapy water will be sufficient to remove most stains.

### **Health & Safety**

Most sealers are regarded as hazardous substances and should be handled with extreme care and in accordance with the manufactures' instructions. PVC gloves, safety goggles and a facemask must be worn as well as protective clothing. The products may also be flammable and must only ever be used in the open. Ignition sources must be kept away. In public areas, erect barriers to exclude anyone other than those applying the sealer.