

## BRICK CARE INSTRUCTIONS

\*\*\*If you receive your bricks on a pallet, be sure to **remove the plastic wrap** as soon as possible to avoid moisture being captured in the bricks and possibly causing efflorescence. \*\*\*

**For Installation:** We highly recommend getting a local professional involved for the installation. To keep your brick warranty valid, proper installation and maintenance is required. Always use **ASTM C144** sand. It is the **ICPI** (Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute) Standard for joint sand. Pay attention that after the installation no sand remains neither in the engraving nor the bricks.

	<b>CONCRETE PAVERS</b>	<b>CLAY PAVERS</b>
<b>When should they be sealed?</b>	A few months after installation	Immediately after installation, bricks <b>MUST</b> be dry
<b>How often should they be sealed?</b>	Every few years needed	Every 2-6 years depending on your region
<b>What type of sealer should be used?</b>	Acrylic-based	Water-based

Be sure to ask your local contractor how to keep your bricks in good shape. They know your area better and the type of weather in your region. To ensure that you have chosen the correct sealer, test it on a few bricks before you seal everything.

Recommended: water-based sealer for clay bricks

Recommended: acrylic based sealer for concrete bricks

### Brick Cleaning Tips

- Keep pavers swept and free of debris. Use a soft broom. Falling leaves and soil left on the bricks can cause stains.
- Use a mild detergent mixed with water. If it is extremely dirty, you can apply the detergent directly but remember to rinse thoroughly. Gently hose off your bricks.
- We recommend using an organic stain remover or a similar product. These cleaners can be rinsed with water and contains no harsh acids, caustics, or solvents.

### Chalky White Haze on Bricks?

This is known as efflorescence: it is a fine, white, powdery deposit of water-soluble salts left on the surface of the bricks as the water evaporates. It can be washed off with a solution of vinegar and water or with any preparation recommended by your brick contractor or local builder.

### What to Avoid

- **DO NOT** use high pressure water when cleaning or steel brushes to remove debris.
- **DO NOT** use acid-based cleaners.
- **AVOID** using salt and shovels for snow removal (for some traction, try using sand or biodegradable cat litter instead).

## **TILE CARE INSTRUCTIONS**

Ask your local contractors about all your tile placement needs, they are your best advisors based on the type of weather in your region.

### **Installation Tips**

- Avoid placing your tiles outside in areas where there is foot traffic (remember that tiles can be a slip hazard!).
- Make sure the temperature is warm enough for installation.
- Check with your contractor on which would be the best way to attach the tiles to walls or floors.

### **Maintain Tile Appearance**

- Use a sponge or other non-abrasive material to clean your tiles.
- We recommend using water and soap to keep your tiles beautiful.
- Gently hose off your tiles.

### **What to Avoid**

- **DO NOT** use high pressure water cleaning
- **DO NOT** use acid-based cleaners
- **DO NOT** use steel brushed to remove debris.

*If you follow these easy steps, we are sure that your bricks and tiles will be beautiful for years to come!*

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