



Protect Your Investment


The best way to protect your concrete investment is to be knowledgeable on its proper installation and maintenance. To achieve quality concrete driveways, both the contractor and the homeowner must follow proper placement procedures. Homeowners will want to make sure that the contractor fulfills all the required placing and finishing and curing steps of the job. The most important step is proper curing, which requires the placed concrete to be cured immediately after finishing! Curing greatly increase the strength and improves the durability of the concrete surface, as well as its resistance to freezing and thawing.



For more great concrete tech tips on driveways, garage pads and more, visit us online at: www.concretesask.org



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Architects and home builders strive to create houses with new designs to appeal to home buyers. However, one frequently overlooked component is the driveway. Yet, it is the ultimate welcome mat to a home. It gives the first impression of the house and its owner.

**Box 696 Main Station
Regina, SK S4P 3A3**

—
306-552-5592
—

acampbell@concretesask.org
—

www.concretesask.org

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Concrete Driveway Tips

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A Symbol of Quality:

A proper concrete mix and proper finishing practices are critical in the final performance of the driveway. There are many resources available to ensure a home builder or a home buyer gets a quality concrete driveway.

Hiring an experienced and reputable flatwork contractor will give you piece of mind that your concrete project is in good hands, and can help avoid costly mistakes and repairs.

Local ready mixed concrete producers have a vested interest in the proper handling of their product and work closely with many professional contractors who take pride in their workmanship and in the outcome of your project

HOMEOWNER' S RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Keep vehicles off the freshly placed concrete for at least 7 days.
- Concrete driveways should be sealed after allowing a minimum of 30 days to air dry. Sealing is a process where a protective coating or penetrating water-repellent material is applied to keep moisture and contaminants out of the concrete. Consider resealing as needed or as wear in high traffic areas begins to show. Follow manufacturer's recommendations when using sealant products.
- The use of down spouts can help prevent drain water from eroding the slab foundation causing settlement cracks.
- Prevent ice and snow from accumulating on the concrete & avoid using de-icing chemicals, especially during the first winter. Use sand if possible as it can also improve traction.
- Never use deicers containing chemicals such as ammonium sulfate, ammonium nitrate, calcium chloride and magnesium chloride. The chemicals will attack and undermine the concrete!

Deicing Salt for Concrete:

In Saskatchewan, homeowners have to deal with snow and ice accumulation on their driveways in the winter months. What is the best way to clear them off without damaging the concrete surface? Many homeowners will simply throw deicing salts bought from local hardware stores on their driveway, without considering if this is the best practice for their investment. Here is a list of dos and don'ts for concrete driveway winter care:

FIRST YEAR

Make sure you keep the concrete clear of snow and ice for the first winter after construction is complete. It is recommended that no deicer of any type be used. Instead of deicing products, consider using sand for traction and slip resistance during the first year of service. New concrete containing entrained air to resist the effects of freeze-thaw cycles during the winter months may exhibit surface scaling of chemical deicers are applied too soon after construction.

Scaling is the loss of surface mortar from the finished hardened concrete surface, resulting in flaking or peeling on the surface. This happens because the microscopic air voids purposely entrained in the concrete to resist freeze-thaw cycles are still saturated at an early age. The air voids cannot yet provide the pressure relief function, if melting water is soaked up and freezes within the pore structure.