



## GUIDE FOR: MAINTENANCE & CLEANING OF COASTAL CREATIONS

This document has been designed as a guide only, for the maintenance and cleaning of Atlas Paving Coastal Creations.

### STAINING AND TREATMENT

Stain Type	Cause of Stain	Treatment of Stain	If stain persists
Oils & Fat	-BBQ -Food -Motor Oil Leaks	Use a degreaser agent. (This may need a few attempts to remove the fat or oil)	A shadowing may appear on the paver. This may lighten with age.
Winter Green (mould)	-Lack of sun light -Damp conditions	Use a hard brush (not steel) or broom to scrub affected area. Spray area with weed killer and leave for a few days. Clean area with hot soapy water using light brushing.	Repeat Treatment of stain
Tannins and resins	-New timber (eg pergola, fence) -Surrounding trees	Scrub affected area using hot water with oxalic acid added (120g per 4 litres). Rinse area well with fresh water.	Wet surface with bleach containing sodium hypochlorite, do not rinse. (Bleach may lighten paver when used on darker colours, in some cases replacement of product may be a viable alternative)
Cement	-Rendering -Footings for patios or pergolas -Mortar from new walls or retaining. -Paver not being cleaned by contractor after cutting or mortar joints being filled	Use a hard brush (not steel) to scrub affected area and / or high pressure water cleaner. (Depending on how long the cement has been on product will reflect the success in its removal).	Use a professional paving contractor to remove cement marks with hydrochloric acid. <b>**BEWARE**</b> The use of hydrochloric acid may remove or strip the top surface of the product exposing aggregate or it may discolour paving. In most cases replacement of product may be a viable alternative.

Stain Type	Cause of Stain	Treatment of Stain	If stain persists
Rust	-Strapping -Garden Furniture -Construction Materials -Nails, screws, tacks, etc	Use a hard brush (not steel) or broom with hot soapy water to scrub affected area. This may remove some of the rust spots.	Treatment is very difficult and may not be successful. In most cases, replacement of product maybe a viable alternative.
Black Mulch, soil & yellow brickies sand	-When mulch, soil or sand has been left on surface of product and may have been exposed to wet conditions	Remove loose particles from surface immediately by sweeping. Saturate area with hot soapy water (Ratio .250 : 5 litres), use a hard brush (not steel) or broom to scrub area	If left on the paving for a long period of time, Black Mulch will leach into the paving and yellow sand will release clay. These will permanently stain pavers, though these stains may lighten with age.

**Preventative measures:** When considering short and long term maintenance of Atlas wet cast pavers first we must consider the use of colours in different areas, the lighter the colour the more marking or staining could be seen. However the use of sealants can reduce the effects of staining, and make removal of the possible staining source easier.

## THE USE OF SEALANTS

It is necessary to seal Atlas wet cast pavers around a swimming pool to protect them from salt and chemical attack. It is not necessary, however it is recommended by Atlas to seal paving to help protect from such things as oil, food, beverage and other possible stains as listed above, thus creating a low maintenance paving area.

There are many types of sealants in the market place; it is not always easy to balance between price of the sealant, protection and longevity. It is advised that when choosing a sealant, always test how the product will react on the paver, by applying to an extra piece or off-cut.

The type of effect the wrong sealant can have on a product can include:

- Discolouring, may become darker (Acrylic sealants may make the paving look yellow in colour over time)
- Becoming slippery when wet
- Creating a shine or sheen on product (This maybe desirable)
- Flaking off over time
- Wearing off in a short time or has no protective qualities

Check with the independent manufactures and supplies of sealant products that what they supply is the best product for your Atlas Paving Coastal Creations paving.

Questions to ask about sealants:

- Is it suitable for a masonry product?
- Will it leave a shine or sheen on the surface of the paving?
- Will it change the colour of the paving?
- Will it be slippery when wet? Can it be prevented?
- Can you see the sealant on an Atlas Coastal Creations paver?
- How long will it last before needing to be recoated?
- Does the sealant have to be stripped before being re applied?
- Can the sealant be high pressure cleaned without wearing down surface protection?
- Does the sealant have a guarantee?

Always follow manufacturers' instructions when "DIY" and if necessary contact the manufacturer for more guidance.

## **SALT ATTACK**

Salt attack can occur on a paving product when subject to such things as sea spray (coastal areas) or from salt water swimming pools. Salt attack happens by repeated wetting of the surface of the product and drying periods between. This causes the salt crystals to form in the pores near the surface of the paver when the water dries out. When the paver is then wet again the salt crystals grow. Over a period of time the pores of the paver filled with crystals are under pressure, that they eventually burst leaving a pot mark in the face of the paver. This repeated over the entire face of the paver will leave it with its aggregate exposed.

The best preventative measure to take is to seal the paver. When a pool is installed make sure a bead of silicone is place between the pool surround and the side of the pool (often there is a gap on fibre glass pools). This will stop salt water from going under the pool surround and will also seal under pool surround.

Treatment of salt attack: high pressure clean, allow drying for a day or two. Apply sealant. If sealing has not been done correctly salt attack will continue.