

Aftercare and Maintenance Guide

Clearstone resin-bound surface dressing

While every effort has been made to ensure that Clearstone surfacing is of the highest quality, it will look better and last longer if a few simple maintenance procedures are adopted.

Normal use

Clearstone surface dressing is intended to be used by normal pedestrian or **light vehicular traffic** for which it has been designed. Protection should be provided wherever possible against abnormal usage.

Abnormal use

Excessive weight e.g. HGVs, skip lorries and oil tankers should not be driven across the surface, unless an access road base has been specifically installed for heavy vehicle usage.

Heavy objects such as **waste skips** should not be dragged across the surface and protection should be provided during building and construction work to avoid fracturing the surface and unsightly contamination from oil, grease, cement and dirt.

Spillages of large amounts of petrol or solvents should be avoided as these may soften the asphalt base and impair its load bearing strength and damage the resin binding.

Car jacks and scaffold bases

Should there be a requirement to jack up a car or other heavy object or place scaffolding, which creates an excessive point loading on the resin bound surface, a thick wide wooden board should be placed under the jack or scaffold poles in order to spread the weight to avoid fracturing the surface.

Routine Maintenance

Leaves, tree flowers, pine needles and other detritus should not be allowed to remain on the surface for any length of time. If this happens they rapidly rot down forming a drainage-inhibiting 'skin' within the surface, and providing a growing medium for algae, moss and weeds which may allow moisture to be held within the surface, which may cause issues during cold and freezing conditions due to expansion and contraction.

Periodic cleaning by hosing down or Light Power Washing and copious amounts of water with a stiff brush should be all that is necessary to remove pollution and surface debris.

Weed, Moss and Algae growth

No matter how much care is taken, weeds may occasionally appear on the surface usually as a result of wind blown seeds. Small weeds can be removed by hand without damaging the surface. In damp and shaded areas the surfacing may attract moss. A pathway moss killer can be used, **but do not use a moss killer which contains Iron Sulphate, it will stain the surface.**

Localised areas of self-set weeds can be treated with domestic weed-killers without causing damage to the surface. **Oil-based weed killers should not be used.** Care must be taken in its application because of a possible hazard to children. After removal of weeds wash the whole area with water to remove any residual chemicals.

Fertilisers

Fertilisers containing **Iron Sulphate** (Lawn Fertilisers and Moss Killers) **must not come into contact with a resin bound surface.** When spraying fertiliser do not let the liquid drift across the resin bound, contact of the chemical can cause rust staining.

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resin bound
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Cleaning

Chewing Gum removal

Removal of individual pieces of chewing gum can be carried out by treating each piece with a freezing spray and then scraping off the hardened gum with a wall/paint scraper. For more extensive removal of gum we would recommend seeking the advice of a specialist cleaning contractor.

Washing

Washing can be carried out using a portable pressure washer (up to 150 bar rating) to remove dirt, grime and moss providing care is taken not to damage the surface with excessive pressure, only cold water should be used and the water lance must be kept at least 200mm from the material's surface and a 'fan' type jet used. For more extensive washing we would recommend contracting a specialist contractor.

Cement and Concrete marks

Cement or concrete marks can be removed with careful use of diluted hydrochloric acid or a propriety cement remover, immediately followed by a thorough rinsing with clean water. Please note that if a lime-based aggregate has been used, the acid will tend to dissolve this as well.

Stain removal

Most stains can easily be removed with a solution of hot (not boiling) water and household detergent e.g. washing-up liquid. Heavy oil marks can be removed with a cloth and methylated spirits.

Solvent and Petrol spillage

These should be washed off the surface with ample cold water immediately after they have happened to prevent softening of the asphalt sub-base and softening of the resin binding.

Ice or Frost on the surface

Snow and ice are not harmful and can be permitted to melt through. The removal of ice or frost from the surface can be achieved by the application of salt only, **do not use road grit**, as this will clog the permeable surface and the grit will break down the resin bound surface dressing. A plastic snow shovel should be used to remove large areas of snow. The area can also be treated with salt prior to a cold snap to prevent freezing occurring in the first place. When the weather has returned to normal, (non freezing conditions) please wash the area through with water to remove the salt from the surface.

Solvent based chemical de-icing agents should not be used. If heavy rain falls immediately after a very cold spell, the surface may become flooded for a few hours. Do not worry, the ice will soon melt and the surface will then drain normally

Small Repairs

Small repairs are possible, but please bear in mind that a repair will be visible and will not match seamlessly with the original area laid. This is because the naturally sourced aggregates can vary with each quarried batch. A new batch of aggregates, for a repair, could differ slightly in colour from the original aggregate batch used for your installation.

If you have any enquiries call our technical team on **01273 358177**

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