

Care for New Concrete



Congratulations on your new sidewalk! While concrete is a strong and durable material, it is still vulnerable to damage, especially in the first 24 months as it cures and adjusts to environmental conditions. To ensure long-term performance and minimize the risk of surface damage, please follow the guidelines below:



Curing & Cleaning

Concrete cures through a chemical process called hydration. If the surface dries too quickly, the hydration slows, which can lead to cracking and reduced strength. To help your new concrete cure correctly, we recommend wetting it down with a hose three times per day for the first seven days.

Keep your new concrete clean. Sweep leaves and hose off debris and spills as they appear. Food and other plant matter can etch or discolor the surface. Do not use high-pressure power washers as they can erode the surface of the concrete, leaving behind marks, pits, and other signs of deterioration.

Ice Control

Do not use salt or ice melt products in the first two years, especially rock salt (sodium chloride), calcium chloride or magnesium chloride blends. Even products labeled “concrete safe” can cause scaling, spalling and early surface breakdown. Instead, remove snow with a shovel or broom and then apply plain sand for traction. If you must use ice melt products, use them only after year three and in absolute minimum quantities.



Thank you again for your business and for helping make NYC a cleaner, greener and safer place for everyone!