

# Wausau Tile, Inc.

## Maintaining Terra Pavers

Terra-Pavers can be maintained to retain their attractive appearance and prolong the life of the pavers. For specific or unusual problems, please call us at 800-388-8728. When using maintenance materials, please follow the product manufacturer's instructions regarding the use of any equipment or cleaning materials described here:

### Weekly Maintenance

Sweep or use 1500 psi to pressure wash deck. In areas of high traffic, such as doorways, daily cleaning may be required.

### Semiannual Maintenance (Spring & Fall)

Power sweep, then pressure wash total deck surface. Spot clean any stained areas using procedures described in "Cleaning Heavily Soiled Areas".

On open-joint systems, remove pavers located over drains; clean debris from around all drain covers to prevent plugging of drains and reinstall pavers. **Note:** This is important for the life cycle of your plaza.

Check pavers for rocking, low or high edges, joint spacing/alignment and broken or chipped pavers. If minor settling or movement has occurred, pavers can be leveled and adjusted with shims. Chipped or broken pavers should be replaced from owners attic stock.

### Cleaning Heavily Soiled Areas

Soiled areas should be cleaned as soon as possible to avoid staining. The type of material causing the soiling determines the correct procedures:

#### A. Oil or Petroleum Products

Remove as much of the material as possible with hot water high pressure washer (3000 psi max.) Apply degreaser cleaner per manufacturer's recommendations directly to the soiled area. With a stiff nylon brush or broom, scrub the area. Rinse the area with hot water high pressure washer. In some cases, a second cleaning may be required, following the same procedures.

#### B. Rust Stains

Soak area with water. Scrub rust stains with masonry cleaner such as Limsol or Surclean products per manufacturer's recommendations. (Be extremely careful around any metal surfaces.) Rinse area thoroughly.

#### C. Soiling from Normal Foot Traffic, Road Salts, Everyday Use

Wash area thoroughly with hot water high pressure washer. On heavily soiled areas spray the area with a commercial grade cleaner per manufacturer's recommendations and scrub with a nylon brush. Rinse thoroughly.

#### D. Gum or Tar

Apply dry ice directly on top of the gum or tar. After freezing, use a putty knife or scraper to remove the gum or tar from the surface.

## **E. Tobacco Stains on Light Colored Pavers**

After pressure washing with hot water, saturate a paper towel with household bleach. Apply towel directly to stain and cover with minimum 3 mill poly. Tape poly to surface to hold in place. Leave stain covered for 24 to 48 hours. Remove to see if stain is gone or lightened. Repeat if necessary.

## **Snow Removal**

Snow can be cleaned from the deck using shovels, walk-behind snow blowers or power brushes. A four wheeled garden tractor, weight not exceeding 1,700 lbs manned, can also be used. Nylon or rubber scrapers are recommended to avoid scratching of pavers. Tire chains can cause minor scratching and extra care should be taken with chains.

The use of snow melt materials should be minimal and in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. Some types of snow melt are not recommended for use on new concrete and can cause surface damage. Minimizing snow melt use keeps these materials out of the drain systems and reduces other maintenance problems. Road salt is not recommended.

## **Efflorescence in Colored Pavers**

Efflorescence is a condition which appears as a white stain on some colored concrete and masonry products. It is a common occurrence in new concrete, created by sodium and sulfate compounds of several hydroxides, minerals, chlorides and nitrates which deposit on the surface and pores. It is the result of moisture evaporation and is most common on darker colored pavers and fabricated surfaces.

Water (rain, humidity or ground water which "wicks") penetrates the pavers and dissolves latent salt. Sun draws the salt in solution to the surface and as moisture evaporates it is deposited on the surface. Efflorescence clears up as pavers age and eventually dissipates. The length of time varies with weather conditions and wear.

## **Quality Products Reduce the Problem**

Terra-Lok and Terra Pavers are formed under intense pressure and vibration. After press time they are laid flat on steel pallets to avoid becoming convex or concave. After 12 to 24 hours they are removed and stacked tight edge, face to back, often allowing moisture to become trapped for extended periods of time. Our experience is that efflorescence is reduced when pavers are installed immediately upon arrival at jobsite.

Efflorescence in no way affects structural integrity. Material with an absorption factor of less than 6% meets ASTM (American Society for Testing Materials) and other government standards. All concrete products manufactured by Wausau Tile, Inc. meets these standards.

Wausau Tile, Inc.  
P.O.Box 1520  
Wausau WI 54402-1520  
Phone (800) 388-8728  
Fax (715) 359-7456  
[www.wausautile.com](http://www.wausautile.com)