
ALLIED OUTDOOR SOLUTIONS

BUILT DIFFERENT.

Concrete

Unsealed concrete care is different than sealed, decorative concrete although there is some crossover.

Keep joints sealed. This will reduce water intrusion, which has a remarkable effect on the longevity of your concrete. Additionally, you'll reduce dirt build-up and places for weeds to sprout.

Seal any hairline cracks that have formed. Cracking is very normal occurrence for a concrete installation. When they occur, we'd recommend sealing them. While on unsealed concrete, this can call more attention to it, it will help with water intrusion, which has long-term implications as previously mentioned. A clear bead of concrete sealant will go a long way.

Using a mixture of dish soap and lukewarm water, scrub the surface using a push broom. Power washing can also be done, however be careful as getting too close to the surface can cause etching.

Decorative Concrete

Decorative concrete should be sealed regularly. We recommend once every two years, and once a year in high traffic areas. You will want to use an acrylic-based, solvent sealer. You can have this done professionally or attempt it yourself. There are countless videos

Pavers

While sealing pavers is an option, it's only recommended for those deeply concerned with the cleanliness of their patio. It's something that will need to be upkept once began, and the price can be formidable.

Regularly cleaning of your pavers or travertine is the most important maintenance for all paver systems. Given the texture, pitting, grooves of these systems, dirt, moss, mildew can collect easily. A regular cleaning, especially during warm months, will battle these items well. If you need something stronger, a soapy mixture with a push broom will do wonders. For deeper stains, there are stain removers on the market; however, a more abrasive cleaner should be used on an out-of-the-way area first—focus on a small section, let it dry, and make an assessment for the larger space as a result.

While we generally use polymeric sand, weeds can and will grow. These weeds are almost always from seeds and dirt that collect in grooves. The best way to avoid weed growth is to wash regularly, as described. If the weeds still collect, use a natural solution like vinegar and water to kill the weeds. Do not let vinegar sit on travertine as it can stain—as with any other acid.

If you find some of the joints are missing polymeric sand, reapplying additional sand in these areas can be simple enough. If you're cautious about it, asking a professional to do it would be best. However, for the bolder:

- Clean the areas thoroughly and let dry.
- Fill a small cup of the polymeric sand—make sure you have the right color and brand.

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- Slowly add sand to the missing areas.
- Gently sweep away any excess. This is an important step and can be difficult as you'll need to be gentle enough to not empty the joint but firm enough to remove the excess. The excess will be adhered to the surface if left behind during the watering.
- Lightly water the areas. Again, if you shoot a directed spray at the joints, you'll have sand splash out. You'll need to arc a gentle spray around the areas.
- Let dry.

General Masonry

Stone can generally be kept clean with regular washes using a mixture of dish soap and lukewarm water. A push broom for the horizontal areas and a heavy bristled nylon brush for the vertical areas should be used to scrub. If this is done regularly, you ought to not need anything more abrasive than that. However, if needed there are stone cleaners on the market.

Two warnings:

- (1) be very careful with power washes as they can etch the stone or remove layers, and
- (2) stone cleaners should be used on an out-of-the-way area first—focus on a small section, let it dry, and make an assessment for the larger space as a result.

Outdoor Kitchen

See the General Masonry section in regard to stone care.

Regarding appliances, stainless steel appliances ought to do fine in most weather. Some of the appliances don't have stainless throughout, so we'd recommend getting covers if not under a cover.

To clean your grill, burners, or griddle, we'd recommend doing so after each use. Follow the instructions for your specific unit. In general, outdoor grills can be cleaned with sudsy water and a wire brush. If not cleaned for a longer period, degreasers can be used; however, caution should be used as these products are particularly caustic.

To clean dishwashers, ice makers, and refrigerators, clean the interior using soap and warm water or vinegar. Additionally, during months where freezing temperatures could be present, drain the water lines for all sinks, dishwashers, ice makers, refrigerators, and ice chests to prevent the pipes from freezing and bursting.

Apply a coat of stainless steel finish to protect the outside of all stainless appliances.

Fire Feature

See the General Masonry section in regard to stone care.

Most importantly, you should have your fireplace inspected and maintained by a professional.

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To keep a wood-burning fireplace or firepit clean, conduct these steps regularly:

- Clean debris, soot, and leaves from the feature before each use (recommend a wet/dry vac and/or broom).
- Remove built-up ash from the feature after each use.
- As specified in the General Masonry section, use a brush and warm, soapy water to thoroughly clean the feature inside and out. Do a deep clean once a year to keep your feature looking its best.
- Cut back any foliage or overgrowth around the feature.
- For fireplaces, burn a creosote sweeping log on a regular basis to help loosen the creosote that can build up in the chimney and flue.

To keep a gas-burning fireplace or fireplace clean, conduct these steps regularly:

- Clean debris, soot, and leaves from the feature before each use (recommend a wet/dry vac and/or broom).
- Keep burners free of soot, and clean them with a cloth or soft-bristle brush. Make sure to turn gas off before beginning.
- As specified in the General Masonry section, use a brush and warm, soapy water to thoroughly clean the feature inside and out. Do a deep clean once a year to keep your feature looking its best.

Carpentry

All carpentry can be affected by plant growth. Some of this plant growth could be intentional, but vines and other overgrowth can cause several issues, damage, mildew, staining, etc. Additionally, cleaning all shade structures or fences regularly is crucial. Using a strong hose while being cognizant of pressure and proximity to the surface can be used to remove mildew, dirt, grass, etc. Wood can splinter under heavy pressure from a powerwasher or the like, so it's important to be careful with anything stronger than a hose. Non-wood structures could withstand harsher cleaning, but they ought not need it.

Cedar or Redwood

Cedar and Redwood will wear over time. While Cedar, particularly, will naturally dissuade insect growth, the sun in our TX and AZ climates can really affect the finish of our wood products. Most will recommend reapplying an oil-based stain every three to five years. This is sufficient however, if possible, applying a clear coat of sealer each year will do wonders to the stain's longevity. Make sure to follow the instructions of the stain or sealer you choose.

If mildew, tree sap, or other stains aren't coming off with the hose. You can mix one cup of bleach with one gallon of water and scrub the wood using a soft-bristled brush—not abrasively. Follow this up with soapy water, and rinse thoroughly. Toothbrushes would help reach any tricky grooves. Ensure the areas where you are applying the diluted bleach mixture are covered as it could cause issues to several of our patio types.

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Aluminum

Aluminum structures require virtually no maintenance. Clean using a hose. You could use a soapy mixture with a cloth or soft-bristled brush, if needed.

Pools

Chemical balancing and overall equipment health should be done by a professional. There are locations, primarily Leslie's, that given a sample of pool water can diagnose the needed chemicals, including the precise quantities and order. However, a professional pool service company will keep the pool swimmable and the plaster healthy. Additionally, they will fill the pool if needed, keep it clear of debris, and help keep proper chemical records—needed for the plaster warranty. Make sure to keep the chemical records for the life of the plaster's warranty.

Stone coping and facade can generally be kept clean with regular washes using a mixture of dish soap and lukewarm water. A push broom for the horizontal areas and a heavy bristled nylon brush for the vertical areas should be used to scrub. If this is done regularly, you ought to not need anything more abrasive than that. However, if needed there are stone cleaners on the market. If a salt cell is in use, sealing stone around the pool will help slow down the corrosion.

For calcium build-up on tile and spillway, scrub with a wire brush or pumice stone (Note: Do not use a pumice stone on glass tile). If thick deposits are present, CLR and very diluted muriatic acid will help. However, it's preferable to use a professional for this as the acid and CLR cannot only be unsafe for use, but they can damage the plaster if not done correctly.

Keep pool equipment clear of overgrowth and on a sturdy level surface. Periodically, check the equipment for leaks. Check the instruction manuals of the equipment itself for any additional items. Regardless of the filter that you have, it should be cleaned 2-3 times per year. If you have a DE (deciduous earth) filter, it will need to be backwashed quite regularly as specified in the instruction manual. Again, most pool equipment maintenance should be done by a professional.