



CHRISTENSEN'S PLANT CENTER

Wholesale Supplier To Landscape Professionals

Paver maintenance

Paver maintenance can be a great way to keep in touch with your previous customers, and generate more exposure in an area that might have potential growth and opportunities. Many customers forget over time that pavers do need some nominal maintenance to keep them looking great through the years.



One of the simple problems like washed out jointing sand can cause some big issues down the road if not properly refilled. The ICPI (Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute) recommends that sand loss of 1/2" or more below the chamfer of the joint should be refilled. There are a variety of products in the market to help prevent jointing sand loss such as sweeping sand with or without portland cement, or a liquid joint stabilizing sealer. All of these products will prevent sand loss and reduce the potential for weed growth and insects. Products using portland cement can be challenging to use, and create a haze if not properly applied. The liquid joint sealers are fairly new to the industry, and have proven to be very durable even in freeze/thaw areas.

This could also be a great time to look at edge restraints. Troweled concrete in time will begin to fail, thus causing paver "creep" and "wave", and if not remedied quickly, could lead to a cascading failure with a large repair bill. Plastic edge restraints are a great and recommended alternative to concrete, especially with Michigan's constant weather changes from 80° today to 3" of snow tomorrow. They may cost a little more in price, but the savings in not having to fix and repair a driveway or patio will definitely cover the additional cost of the materials.

Another concern with patios and especially driveways are stains. And the first thing the home owners like do is get out the good old power washer and power wash that stain away, thus leading to the first topic. There is a wide variety of products to clean stains of all kind, even oil spots. And none involve having to use a power washer. This could also be a good time to talk about sealers. There are a wide variety of sealers to accommodate your needs. Efflorescence is another unsightly discoloration effect that you may have to contend with, especially with new installations. This is a natural process that occurs to all concrete pavers and walls, and more prominently in recently produced products. This will wash away over time without compromising the color of the stone. Several companies have a cleaner to remedy this, and once cleaned will typically not return. Just a word of caution however, make sure all of the efflorescence has been cleaned off the product before sealing, otherwise the efflorescence will be sealed in the product.

My name is Bryan Pajak, and I have worked for Christensen's Plant Center for about six years. You may know me from having delivered some of our product to a job site or a contractors yard. I started in the Hardscape shop in July of last year due to a shoulder surgery. What started out as a temporary position has now turned into my new passion and niche. I look forward to helping our valued customers with all their hardscape needs. So please feel free to call me or email me to answer any of your questions, place an order for product, or to quote your next brick project.



Bryan Pajak

**Christensen's Plant Center
6282 Gotfredson Road
Plymouth, Michigan 48170**

(734) 454-1400 voice
(734) 454-1414 fax

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