



Pavers: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Are Concrete Pavers Strong?

Interlocking concrete pavers are specified to strengths that are typically 3 times that of poured concrete.

2. Are Concrete Paving Stones Hard To Install?

Most individual homeowners can install the concrete pavers themselves in a few easy steps. If you start with properly graded soils (pavers typically require excavation of 6 to 10 below desired finish grade), crushed gravel, sand, paving stones, and a few tools are all you'll need. Our dealers have installation instruction brochures.

3. Can I Place Interlocking Concrete Pavers On Existing Concrete?

Concrete pavers can be placed on top of existing concrete when the surface is relatively flat, without large cracks, and when the elevation can be increased by 2 1/2 inches with no adverse effects. Edge restraints must be considered; sand, mortar, or glue base to be used; surrounding elevation and material impact must all be considered. It is often better to demolish the existing and place the pavers conventionally. Contact your dealer for further considerations.

4. Can I Use Interlocking Concrete Pavers In My Driveway?

Absolutely! Proper grading, compaction and gravel base must be considered. Contact your local dealer for further details and guidance.

5. Can Interlocking Concrete Pavers Be Used For Pool Decking?

Yes! Concrete pavers can be used in almost any application, and is the best choice for most. The colors and patterns available can be used to enhance your backyard and pool.

6. Can The Concrete Paving Stones Be Delivered To My Home?

Most dealers offer a delivery service or rent trucks to the consumer. Larger jobs can be arranged to include forklift delivery at additional cost. Smaller installations can be served by using a pickup or even several trips in the trunk of your car.

7. How Do I Clean Stains From My Pavers?

There are a number of commercial cleaners available at your local dealer to address most stain conditions.

8. How Do I Keep The Paver Edges From Moving?

Edge restraints of concrete, wood, or products made specifically to restrain edges can be obtained from your local dealer.

9. How Do I Keep The Sand In My Paver Joints?

In conjunction with the interlock pattern of your pavers, the sand used in the paver joints serves to 'lock' the stones in place. It will naturally wash out from the top-most joint area. If joint depth exceeding a quarter inch is visible, sweep additional sand into the joints. Commercial joint sealers from your dealer are available to seal the sand in place. See also *sealing the surface of pavers*.

10. How Thick Are Concrete Pavers?

Interlocking Concrete Pavers are available in 60mm, 80mm, and 100mm thickness. Depending on the structural demand of the paver surface to be built. Typical homeowner applications will use the 60mm product available at dealers.

11. I Need Additional Lighting For Safety, How Do I Achieve This?

There are a number of paving styles in which low voltage lighting is available so that you can put light directly in the surface of your paved area. They look great, marking or lighting the immediate area, and won't be

damaged by the errant soccer ball since they are flush in the pavement! Low voltage means they're easy to install and maintain. Contact your local dealer for details and assistance.

12. Should I Seal The Surface Of My Pavers?

Sealing concrete pavers is a personal choice. It can enhance the colors and light reflectivity, but must be properly applied after cleaning, and requires maintenance. It will also assist in 'sealing the joint sand in place, often preferred in pool decks. Many prefer the natural 'aging' of a paved concrete surface.

13. What About The Rare Occurrence When An Individual Stone Or Two Are Damaged?

Replacing individual paving stones or groups of paving stones is accomplished with little impact to surrounding areas. Getting the first stone out can be tough, the interlock of pavers and sand is tight! Using a strong, flat blade tool like an old screwdriver or two, can be used to pry into the sand joint, working the stone upward from side to side. There are times the stone is in so tight, it must be broken or cut out. It is always a good idea to set several stones aside for future replacement need so that the original colors match.

14. What Are Interlocking Concrete Paving Stones?

Interlocking Concrete Paving Stones are manufactured concrete products. Using compaction and higher cement levels, concrete pavers are individual 'stones' made to higher density specifications than most concrete products. When combined with additional paving stones, a flat surface is created by the interlock of stones. Unique and attractive designs result, creating a preferable surface for sidewalks, patios, pool decks, and driveways. Interlocking Concrete Pavers have been successfully used in hard-use commercial applications for years, where other materials have not fared as well. This is the ideal product for most homeowners.

15. What Are The Advantages Of Using Interlocking Paving Stones?

Interlocking Concrete Paving Stones offer many advantages when compared to traditional paving surfaces. There are a wide variety of patterns and colors available to suit your needs. The products are cost effective and require little, if any, maintenance - life expectancy is 40+ years.

16. What Colors And Styles Are Available?

Basalite manufactures a wide variety of styles in the most popular colors. Our dealers can assist you in the style and color selection that suits your project requirements. Custom manufactured colors are also available to the professional design community.

17. What Other Considerations Are There?

The application and use of building products is typically governed by local or regional building codes. Please check with your local authority or building department to ensure safe compliance. When using building products, follow safety protocols. Read and understand the package labels, directions for use, and adhere to safety precautions. Please contact us if there are any questions or concerns.

18. What Tools Are Needed For Installation Of Pavers?

To install pavers you will need a shovel and a rake to prepare your base of class 2 aggregate in 2 layers. You can rent a compactor from most rental stores. You will also need a rigid 3/4 electrical pipe 10' in length or 1 strips of wood to serve as screed guides. A paver cutter or a diamond blade saw are also good tools to have on hand.

19. Where Can I Purchase Interlocking Concrete Paving Stones?

Contact us for a list of dealers that carry our products. Your local masonry dealer or home building center will typically have a variety of stone colors and styles available for purchase.

20. Will I Need To Include Control Joints In My Design?

No. Interlocking Concrete Pavers are used to create a solid paving surface in which the individual stones retain the ability to move independently without damaging the paved surface. This is ideal in freeze/thaw environments and in areas where a differential settlement is likely to take place. Damage from soil movement is minimized when Interlocking Concrete Pavers are used.

21. Will Weeds Grow In The Joints Of My Paved Surface?

There will likely be a weed sprout from time to time. Though they don't usually grow much and are easily pulled when small.
