



Meie silentame Teile mõtted

PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE MANUAL

Machinery for the maintenance of paving stones (pavement) is selected based on the load-bearing capacity of the ground and the durability of the pavement.

Freezing and avoiding slickness. Snow and ice are removed mechanically, either with shovels, scrapers, brushes, or centrifugal cleaners. Careless back-and-forth movements with heavy machinery can scratch the stone surface. Sanding is used to control slipperiness, where necessary. In spring, after snow and ice melt, the sand is swept up and removed. Due to the risk of corrosion of stones, salt should not be used to prevent slickness. Salt weakens the structure of the concrete and thus gradually degrades the concrete surface. In addition, salt is an environmentally harmful substance.

Cleaning the pavement. If there is any dirt, it should be made clear whether the dirt is accumulated over time or whether it is newly formed. Before cleaning, the desired end result should be determined. To achieve the best cleaning result and to pick the best cleaning method, the origin of the dirt must be determined. The principle of cleaning is to avoid any mechanical or chemical impact on the pavement surface. To avoid surprises and injuries, it would be a good idea to test the cleaning method on a small surface. Surfaces cleaned with strong-acting tools will leave patches that stand out from other surfaces. This is also the case when old pavement is repaired with newly produced stones. Over time, colour differences on the pavement will even out. The pavement is cleaned by brushing and rinsing with water. Packed dirt can be removed by washing with water and a brush or by using a pressure washer at low pressure. Powerful pressure washers can damage the pavement surface. Water should not be channelled into the joints to prevent the sand from washing away. If necessary, more sand is added into the joints. For demanding sites, cleaning should be outsourced to experts in the field who have the required expertise.

Weed and moss removal. Mechanical weeding is used to remove weeds. Another option is to burn the weeds with an LPG burner. Burning can affect the surface of the stone and shorten the life of the concrete block. The most effective way to remove weeds is to use repellents, which can also prevent weeds from growing. Before using repellents, it is important to ensure that the product is suitable for use on stone pavement. When using repellents, always follow the instructions supplied by the product manufacturer. Moss is mechanically removed from paving stones.

Stains. Oil and grease stains do not damage the stone surface and only have an aesthetic impact. Stains should be freshly removed to prevent dirt from adhering to the porous surface. Oil and grease are allowed to be soaked into paper, sawdust, or some other absorbent material. Finally, the stone surface is washed by brushing it with hot water or using a pressure washer. You can try to make the washing more efficient by using a dishwashing liquid. After using a washing liquid, the surface of the stone must be thoroughly rinsed to prevent particles from entering the pores. Washing liquid residues may affect the structure of the concrete and make the stone more brittle. In many cases, to get rid of oil stains the stained stones must be replaced entirely. To remove chewing gum stains, use hot water and a pressure washer with caution.