

Concrete Homes Technology Brief

No. 18: Concrete Pavers

Why concrete pavers?

Concrete pavers offer a variety of patterns and colors that add to the character of any home. They create style, color, and vitality with eye-catching patterns. They provide value as a durable yet low maintenance surface for patios, walks, pool decks, driveways, parking areas, public spaces, subdivision entrances, and streets. A growing number of builders use concrete pavers with other exterior features to add style to landscaping that increase curb appeal and sales.

Homebuyers want paving that complements their residences and lifestyles. Builders can answer this demand with concrete pavers...and increase sales at the same time.

Appearance: The wide array of colors, shapes, and sizes make concrete pavers a popular opinion that enhances neighborhood and home character. Patterns complement the architectural style of any home because of the wide variety of available styles, colors, and textures.



This mottled driveway took its cue from the brick walls.

Low Initial Cost: Concrete pavers beautify homes with the high-end look of natural stone on walks and driveways at surprisingly modest prices. They are practically maintenance free.

Low Cost Repair: Concrete pavers set on bedding sand and sand joints interlock to provide a firm surface without the use of mortar. Should base or underground utility repairs be needed, the same pavers are removed and reinstated with no unsightly patches. Unlike other pavement surfaces, the original appearance of the paved surface is easily restored.

Snow Removal: Pavers' smooth surface allows for easy snow removal. Darker colored pavers help melt snow faster. Snow-melt systems can be easily installed under the pavers to eliminate snow and ice removal.

Durability: Pavers resist deterioration from freeze-thaw cycles and deicing salts better than other surfaces. Pavers are stronger than other common pavement surfaces.

Don't Crack: Unlike monolithic surfaces, the sand-filled joints between each interlocking paver allow a small amount of movement without cracking.

Define and Enlarge Space: Raised patios provide a great entertainment area and can create useful space on sloped backyards with segmental concrete retaining walls.



This raised patio enlarges living space and serves as a platform to enjoy the shades of backyard trees.

Interlocking concrete pavers create a relaxing patio, enhanced with a fire pit.

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Achieve LEED® Credits with Concrete Pavers

Raised patios can also incorporate an in-ground hot tub, and many patio designs are enhanced with a barbecue or a fire pit and lighting.

Rising energy and material costs have accelerated energy and natural resource conservation in home design and construction. Concrete pavers can help builders address sustainable development and earn Leadership and Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) credits for their homes. Earn LEED® credits through:



Innovative permeable pavement creates an upscale look for driveways; it also helps builders comply with local stormwater regulations.

Surface Water Management—Install permeable interlocking pavers for walkways, patios, sidewalks, playgrounds, recreation courts, aprons, and driveways that reduce runoff and pollutants.

Local Resource Use, and Recycled Content—Most pavers are produced within 500 miles of the home and can include recycled materials. These features support indigenous resource use and reduce environmental impacts from transportation and natural resource extraction.

Other credits can be achieved through clean up of surface runoff and through reduced heat island effect. Light colored pavers do not produce the heat often generated by asphalt pavements.

Getting a quality installation:

To learn more about concrete pavers, visit the Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute at www.icpi.org. ICPI has many resources to assist builders, design professionals, contractors, and homeowners with their concrete paver projects. To find an ICPI Certified Concrete Paver Installer Program, visit http://www.icpi.org/contractors/find_installer.cfm.

*To learn more about concrete pavers
and installation practices*