



Concrete Care and Maintenance

Regular upkeep prevents dirt and stains from becoming embedded and ensures the longevity and appearance of your patio.

- **Sweep regularly:** Use a broom or leaf blower to remove dirt, leaves, and other debris before they can cause stains or promote mold growth.
- **Clean spills immediately:** Blot liquid spills and use a mild detergent and warm water or a dedicated concrete cleaner to clean up food, drink, or oil spills as soon as they happen.
- **Wash periodically:** Rinse the patio with a garden hose periodically. For a deeper clean, use a stiff-bristled brush and a solution of mild dish soap and warm water, or a commercial concrete cleaner. A pressure washer can be used for tough grime, but use a moderate setting (around 1500-2500 PSI) to avoid damage.
- **Prevent stains:** Place saucers or coasters under potted plants to prevent rust and soil stains, and use mats in high-traffic or BBQ areas to reduce dirt and grease.

Sealing and Repairs

Sealing creates a protective barrier against moisture and stains, while timely repairs prevent minor issues from becoming major problems.

- **Seal the surface:** Apply a high-quality concrete sealer every 2-3 years, or when water no longer beads up on the surface. Clean and dry the patio completely before application, following the manufacturer's instructions for drying times.
- **Repair cracks:** Inspect the patio regularly and fill small cracks (up to 1/2-inch wide) with a flexible, polymer-based concrete crack filler applied with a caulking gun. For larger or structural cracks, consult a concrete professional.

Seasonal Care

Adapt your maintenance routine to the weather to protect your patio year-round.

- **Winter**
 - **Remove snow promptly:** Use a plastic or rubber-edged shovel to avoid scratching or chipping the surface.
 - **Avoid de-icing salts:** Traditional rock salt can damage concrete surfaces. Use sand or calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) for traction instead.



- **Ensure proper drainage:** Confirm gutters and downspouts direct water away from the patio to prevent water from pooling and freezing in the concrete's pores.
- **Fall**
 - **Clear leaves promptly:** Remove fallen leaves and organic debris that can cause stains and promote mold growth if left damp on the surface.
- **Spring**
 - **Inspect for damage:** After the winter, check for new cracks, flaking, or other signs of damage and address them promptly.