

## THINNER LIGHTER STRONGER

Thank you for choosing Feinwerk Pavers as your project hard surface supplier



### Feinwerk Paver advantages



#### Thinner

Using specialised automated machinery, we can produce pavers that are far more consistent than manually manufactured ones, with thickness of 30mm.



#### Lighter

Our pavers are around 25% lighter than any others available on the market. Feinwerk Pavers are easier for landscaping professionals to manage and install.



#### Stronger

We have European technology that allows us to produce **high-strength fibre reinforced concrete** pavers. All Feinwerk Pavers are produced to a strength of at least 40 MPa, compared to the industry standard of around 30 MPa.

### Installation/Laying/Placing

Placed the same as any other wet cast paver on either mortar (best for all size pavers) or sand on top of a solid compacted aggregate base

### Cutting

No different than any other wet cast paver. Just use a good PCD blade on your tool, a little water to contain the dust and take your time. All normal PPE precautions should be taken when cutting any cement-based product.

### Jointing, Grouting or Pointing

There probably isn't one best method for creating perfect joints but the purpose is to prevent water from seeping between and below the pavers. Methods including mortar, sand/mortar mix, dry premixes, wet premixes or hybrids, all do the same thing but trade off cost for ease of application.

### What are the little plastic balls?

To help achieve our sustainability goals, our pavers are not packed with polystyrene or cellair. Feinwerk Pavers have separators built into them so they can be stacked vertically on a pallet without wasteful polystyrene packing. They also help our pavers cure more evenly.

Our separators (little balls) are made from recycled plastic. Sometimes during shipping they can leave a small mark on the surface on the paver in front. The good news is that in time as the paver wears in, the mark will disappear.

### Do you recommend sealing Feinwerk Pavers?

Yes and no, it depends on the application. As concrete pavers are a natural cement-based product, sealing has many advantages including:

- Prevents efflorescence from occurring after installation,
- Helps stabilise colour variance, performance & longevity,
- Prevents staining, protects against spills & fats from BBQs,
- Some sealers will enhance the colour/gloss of the paver.

We like a Permacolour product called Repel SS. This sealer gives a more natural look, but you can use any sealer from your favourite DIY Store.

Of course, there is an additional cost in sealing so if you are using the pavers to get across a wet lawn to the clothesline or under a tap, sealing probably isn't necessary.

### Colour Variation

One of the reasons people choose wet cast pavers is that they don't all look exactly the same. Being made almost entirely of natural materials means that there can be slight variation in colour between pavers. Although every effort is made to ensure consistency of product colour, we recommend that you lay products randomly from each pallet.

### Dimensions

All dimensions given are nominal and subject to manufacturing tolerances. The quoted dimensions of our paving ranges are those normally attained when the slabs are arranged correctly spaced, i.e. sizes are given inclusive of joints (typically 10mm).

## How to clean or prepare pavers for sealing

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### What is the white powder stuff seen on the pavers sometimes?

It's a naturally occurring chemical process called Efflorescence present in all cement-based products. Despite us adding chemicals and disciplines during manufacturing to minimise this in our pavers, unfortunately it is a limitation of cement-based products that no one has figured out yet.

Rest assured that while efflorescence can look scary, it's generally harmless and won't affect the structural performance of your concrete pavers.

The good news is that it can be treated and in most cases isn't permanent. There is a heap of information online but here is the simple version of how to prevent it.

### How to prevent efflorescence

The key to preventing efflorescence is slowing water intrusion into the pavers.

#### Pro Tips:

- Store pavers off the ground and re-cover them with the waterproof sheeting/cover supplied by us. This will prevent them from absorbing excess water or salts.
- Installing on a mortar base versus a sand base is better.
- Water also comes from rain, sprinkler systems, cracks, gaps and the ground (wicking).
- Ensure landscape plans include adequate runoff areas, moving water away from the pavers. Water sprinkler systems should be set up in a way to not direct water onto the surface.
- Consolidated Grout Joints. Dense mortar joints can remove voids from the grout and decrease porosity, slowing the travel of water and salts between bricks, blocks, or stones.
- Proper Drainage. When installing pavers, ensure bedding material and grading allow for proper drainage. Permeable geotextiles can also prevent salt/water absorption (wicking) from the ground.

### How to remove efflorescence (least aggressive to most aggressive)

We believe the best cure for efflorescence is to just leave it as it will go away with time. Simply walking over the paving will abrade the deposit, wearing it away and reducing the quantity visible on the surface.

**First is the stiff brush method.** Regularly scrub the affected areas with a dry stiff brush will help to loosen and wash away some of the deposits.

**Next you should rinse the pavers with 6% vinegar/water.** Vinegar is extremely effective against removing efflorescence from any surface. You also do not have to worry about rinsing acids into the soil around your pavers. Once you have poured vinegar/water that is 6% acid over the pavers, scrub them with a stiff brush, then rinse it away with a water hose.

Lastly if you want to remove it promptly, choose the chemical cleaning method using Muriatic Acid from your favourite DIY store.

### The Chemical Cleaning Method

Here's what you'll need:

- Garden hose & plastic watering can (don't use metal)
- Muriatic Acid from any DIY Store, a natural acid used in swimming pools and masonry
- Boots, rubber or nitrile gloves, and protective eyewear

### Then, follow these steps:

**STEP 1** Dilute the Muriatic Acid with water. The ideal mixture is twelve parts water to one part acid (12/1). (Remember to test a small patch prior to cleaning the entire surface!)

**STEP 2** Wet the paver surface with water. Blow/sweep off any excess water that may have ponded in any low areas. The surface should be wet but not puddled.

**STEP 3** Use a plastic watering can to apply the diluted mixture on the wet paver surface. Make sure you are applying a sufficient volume of mixture to the surface.

**STEP 4** Wait one minute for the mixture to react and then agitate on the surface using a hard bristle brush. Work in 4-5 square meter sections at a time, depending on conditions.

**STEP 5** Rinse each section thoroughly with water using a hose before moving onto the next. All traces of foam should be completely removed. (Note: Never let the mixture dry up on the paver surface!)

Repeat the process until the entire surface is completely free of debris and/or stains. (Note: It may be necessary to allow the surface to dry to see if the efflorescence has been completely removed.)

Remember, efflorescence is a natural occurrence in all concrete products. However, regularly using an efflorescence cleaner can help ensure your pavers keep looking vibrant and fresh!