

# JANE DILWORTH & ASSOCIATES

## PAVER & NATURAL STONE CARE SHEET

### General Paver Information

As the final step in your paver or natural stone installation, the crew will sweep sand across the surface, and leave it. You may have the urge to sweep it clean, but please refrain from doing so. The excess sand on top will settle into the joints and fill any remaining spaces, further locking your new pavers or natural stone in place. As the sand settles in, the surface sand will dissipate. The crew should also leave you an extra bag of sand, and as you see settling of the new sand or gaps in the joints, please sweep some extra sand across to fully fill the joints and maintain the integrity of your new pavers or natural stone.

### Winter Paver Information

In the Midwest, our weather goes through many varied cycles. Part of this is snow and ice, and you may notice that your new pavers frost up more quickly than traditional concrete. To care for your new pavers in the winter, the manufacturer recommends using a rubber-edged shovel to avoid leaving any scratch marks on your new pavers. If you prefer to use a snow blower, make sure you can raise the setting on any metal parts that may scrape the pavers. (This can also apply to natural stone, such as bluestone). Should you wish to de-ice your new pavers, you should buy a de-icing product (“salt”) that does **not** contain ammonium. When selecting your de-icer, you should also be aware that different products work within different temperature ranges – some in colder temperatures, and some in milder.

### Polymeric Jointing Sand

Polymeric Jointing Sand (aka polymeric sand) is a mix of sand and binder specially formulated for paver or natural stone on flat or sloping surfaces. The advantages of using polymeric sand are that it resists insect infestation and weed growth. It also resists erosion due to rain and wind. The binder in the mix helps stabilize the sand within the joints without applying a surface sealant. It is applied dry and will harden after wetting. It then needs 24 hours to dry without any use or traffic over the surface.

### Sealing Your Pavers/Natural Stone

Applying a non-toxic sealant product to your new pavers or natural stone has its benefits. It will reduce weed growth and lock in the joint materials (sand). Once the sealant is applied and dry, you should not need to sweep additional sand in. However, weeds can grow if the seeds are allowed to collect on top of the pavers or natural stone, and the sealant may change the appearance of your pavers or natural stone. Lastly, sealants often need to be re-applied on a bi-annual basis, depending on the traffic loads of your pavers or natural stone.

If you choose to have the sealant applied, it will need to be scheduled around the predicted weather as it needs 48 hours to dry. You will also need to turn off any nearby irrigation systems during this time. As you can imagine, we will track the weather, but cannot guarantee it will not rain after the application.

For additional information, you can call our office at (630) 515-1230 or visit our website [www.janedilworth.com](http://www.janedilworth.com)