#### OUTDOOR PATIOS STEVE FULLER CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR

There is nothing guite like lounging on the patio on a sunny Sunday morning, newspaper or magazine in one hand, coffee in the other, with birds singing all around you. No matter if you live in the city or the country, a patio connects you

and your home to nature, which studies have shown can decrease your stress and increase your attention span.

H&M Landscaping in Northeast Ohio has been designing and building custom patios for over twenty years. They can be a valuable addition to any backyard, deck or living space. As the winter snow melts and spring is upon us there is no better time to invest in a custom paver patio or walkway. Why is the spring time one of the best times to have this work done? So you can enjoy your new living space ALL year long!

Even if you have your very own custom paver patio, we can help with many maintenance questions as to having the proper drainage, efflorescence and discoloration issues, with protection treatment plans. We are here to help in any way.





Investing in your property with a new custom living space provides an extended area with your family or social gatherings. Throw in an outdoor dining set and some *patio* decor, and it can also become your favorite eating spot! Adding the beautiful space to your property comes easy with the experts at H&M landscaping. Give us a call today for your free estimate.



## **CONTACT US**

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"Well it's spring again and there seems to be a lot of excitement in the air. With a new president in the white house, many Americans seem to be more optimistic for 2017. H&M's production staff has been busy all winter providing clear and safe passage to our customers. This winter has been a little different than the last 8 vears for our staff.

We have seen more optimism in the economy and a willingness to do more projects around our clients properties as we prepare for mother nature to do away with the snow and usher in the warm days of spring. Back in the early 2000's, it was a standard practice for our design and sales staff to be hard at work collaborating with our customers on new and exciting outdoor projects.



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## **A LETTER FROM** THE PRESIDENT

#### Our Commitment Is To Exceed Your Highest Expectations The First Time

As you might imagine, the past uncertainty in the world has suppressed demand over the last several years. We have always had good activity, but the sense of urgency was not as prevalent as it seems to be this year. We have seen a tremendous uptick in the willingness to do home improvements and projects compared to before. I know as I have gotten a little older, (45 this year- seems like it was just yesterday when H&M was started 29 years ago) I find that with two teenage daughters, my life is busier than ever. Finding time to get the family loaded into the car and spend quality time together is nearly impossible.

Can you imagine having a resort in your back yard with a built in grill, waterfall and fireplace? Where you can gather with your spouse and kids and spend hours of quality time as a family. With today's busy lifestyles, we are seeing many more clients develop outdoor living spaces in their yards so they can seize those precious

moments to create a lifetime of memories. Stay tuned- before you know it, the days will be longer and the nights a little warmer. You will be running from a soccer game to a volleyball game and thinking to yourself: where has the summer gone? Thanks for your continued loyalty and enjoy the memories that lie ahead.

SPRING 2017

Life is short and with every day you live, your journey on earth becomes shorter and shorter, its not what you do today that is important, but what you leave behind for others to enjoy." Thank you for allowing me to leave behind my foot prints. Talk to you soon.

Mark Mazzurco

Mark Mazzurco, President

#### THE H&M INSIGHT

## PAVER PATIOS—DO THEY NEED TO BE SEALED?

#### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

### **TO OUR H&M TEAM MEMBERS**

March

Michael Wirick, March 19

Mark Barker, March 21

April

Scott Wood, April 21 Dave Hartman, April 25 Jeff Kleve, April 27 Dan Sorg, April 30 May

Clinton Watters, May 1 Bob Thompson, May 2 Eddie Murillo, May 5 Frank Galino, May 11 Tim Korte, May 11 Sergio Aboytes, May 20 James Poling, May 21 Adam Glaettli, May 25 **Enjoy your day!** 



# SENIOR CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR

ED SMITH

Paver patios create a wonderful area of the home for relaxation and entertainment. Unlike wooden decks, they are considered to be maintenance free. But are they really? The simple answer is no. Although paver patios don't require the annual cleaning and staining that a wood deck often does, patios that are left uncared for can easily turn into an unattractive area. They can become uneven, faded out, and consumed by weeds. The remedy for this problem is simple and quite easy.

Like every other exterior area of your home, weather constantly attacks your patio. The sun's ultraviolet rays over time will

fade the colors of the pavers if not sealed and the rain washes the sand out of the paver joints. Left unchecked, this erosion will eventually cause the pavers to become uneven. Over time, weeds will begin to grow in the joints between the pavers and ants will colonize in them, making your patio their new home.

The solution to this problem is, you need to seal the patio with a water-based sealer. Unlike solvent-based sealers, water-based sealers will solidify, or harden the sand in the joints. This will prevent the sand from washing out with future rains. It also makes it difficult for weeds to take hold or ants to colonize through the sand. Certain sealers will also add an attractive "wet look" to the pavers, protect them and prevent the color of the paver stones from fading by providing strong and dura-

ble UV protection from the sun's rays.

The process of applying a sealer consists of four steps:

First, you power wash the patio to remove any debris and minor staining, such as rust stains from patio furniture. A cleaner can be used to aid in the process. Secondly, you level out any uneven pavers by removing them and adding enough



sand to even things out. Then replace the pavers to their original location. Third, re-fill the joints between the pavers with new polymeric sand by pouring some sand on the patio. Sweep enough into the joints between the pavers to fill them back up. Hose off the patio to remove the excess sand which activates the glue to keep the joints sealed.

Finally, after the patio dries thoroughly, take a pump-up garden type sprayer, apply two coats of water-based sealer to the patio. Avoid over application; apply only as much sealer as the pavers can easily absorb. Be careful not to spray the house or plant material surrounding the patio.

A good water-based sealer, when properly applied, will protect your patio from nature's elements and keep it looking great for many years to come.

### TO MULCH OR NOT TO MULCH

MARK BARKER BRANCH MANAGER

As spring approaches, many of us are watching our neighborhoods come back to life again after winter's forced hibernation. There are sounds of kids playing, patio sets being taken from storage and placed diligently in backyards, and many people taking back their yard for the first time since November. Soon enough, your neighborhoods and streets will be filled with landscape trucks, sounds of various power equipment being used, and the smell of spring mulch.

This leads me into my topic "to mulch or not to mulch". Mulching is one of the best things you can do for your plants. Mulch not only protects the soil against wind and water damage, it



also helps keep the soil from getting too dry and reduces the need for frequent watering. It limits the temperature change in soil and stops the growth of unwanted plants or weeds.

Organic mulch improves soil conditions as it breaks down, providing materials to the soil and keeping it soft and suitable for growth. This helps improve the condition of the roots



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and increases the movement of water throughout the soil. Organic mulch contains many nutrients for plants and provides a good environment for earthworms and other helpful organisms that live in vour soil.

The best time to add mulch depends on your goals. If you wish to have a healthy array of plant material and an aesthetically good looking yard, yearly mulching is recommended. As we have all posed the question to ourselves a time or two, hopefully I have been able to provide you with a little tidbit to help answer your questions.

If you have any questions or would like to speak to an H&M representative, please give our office a call.

# Plan. Design. Build. Enjoy.

#### SPRING CLEANUPS ARE IMPORTANT

We all give plenty of thought to the importance of spring cleaning the inside of our home but what about the outside? H&M Landscaping Spring landscape cleanups are a vital part of taking care of the look of the outside of your house but there is more to it than that. Most homeowners do not realize the importance of taking care of this yard

cleanup aside from just the overall improved look. The main benefit you gain from a professional yard cleanup by H&M is that it can help prevent the buildup of debris and organic matter which can form a blanket. This blanket acts as a barrier between your grass and the sunlight. It can also end up blocking out water, oxygen and other crucial nutrients. When that matter is left untouched it can cause harm to your lawn.

Once spring comes around your grass and spring time blooms may not be able to grow or recover from the intense freeze/thaw cycles we experienced this Winter. You should not assume this material will break down on its own. When chopped up into a type of organic mulch this can sometimes be beneficial to plant life, left on top to cover, it may smother your grass, flowers and other desirable plants.



H& M Landscaping has decades of experience taking care of this type of work and we know what goes into creating a stunning and healthy yard. Scheduling a thorough spring cleanup right now is critical to getting your landscaping ready for the upcoming season. Contact us today so we can take care of all your landscape related services.