

HOW TO PROTECT AND MAINTAIN STAMPED CONCRETE

Steve Petersen, Account Manager

Adding to the value of decorative stamped concrete is the material's inherent strength and endurance. Like conventional concrete, stamped concrete will provide decades of service when properly installed and maintained, even when exposed to harsh winter weather conditions.

But even properly sealed stamped concrete will require some routine maintenance, depending on exposure conditions and the type and amount of traffic it receives. Here are some tips for cleaning and treating your stamped concrete to preserve its beauty and extend its service life.

Stamped concrete maintenance tips:

- Although a sealer will inhibit stains, you should still sweep and wash the surface occasionally to avoid dirt buildup. Exterior surfaces can be pressure washed or scrubbed with a mild detergent.
- On outdoor stamped concrete, avoid using deicing salts, especially during the first winter after the pavement is installed. Sealers for decorative concrete often fail in areas where deicing salts are applied or that receive drip-off from parked cars.
- If the stamped surface begins to dull or lose its sheen after time, recoating with sealer will usually restore the luster. Ask the installer to come back and reinstall sealer to bring your concrete back to life.



Plan. Design. Build. Enjoy.



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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our Commitment Is To Exceed Your
Highest Expectations The First Time

WOW, another spring is upon us. After 30 years in business, I still stress when writing my president's column trying not to be redundant or making sure my article has good content and is captivating to our customers. Then it hits me... all I have to do is talk about what it is that gets me out of bed every day and why I have chosen the path I have been on for over 30 years...my customers and my team.

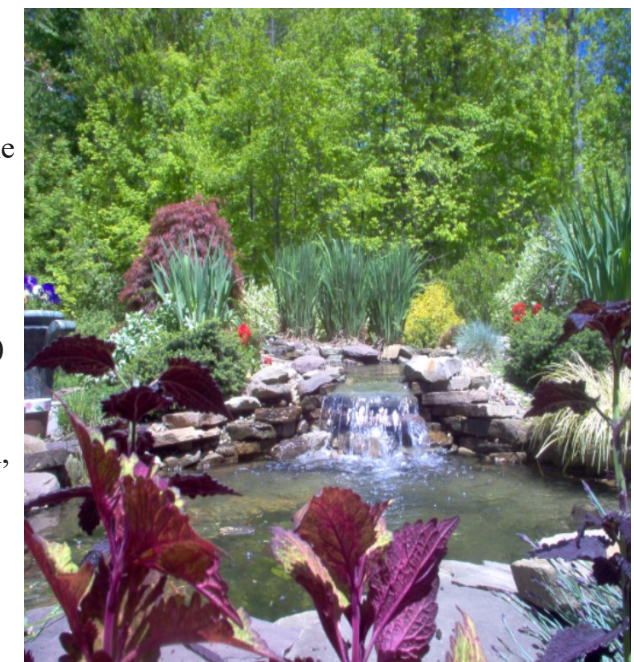
I recently had an appointment with a customer who had a challenging project they were searching for solutions to. The customer seemed really stressed about how to fix their issue, stay within a reasonable budget and end up with something they would be proud of when completed. After about 30 minutes of collaboration, some creative thinking and my 30 years of seeing just about everything you can imagine in the landscaping arena, we came to a creative solution. Now don't get me wrong, this will be a challenging project, but it will be unique when it is done. I remember walking away that day with the customer smiling and saying how much they were looking forward to seeing my vision on paper. That's when it hit me. SHAZAM!! This is the reason I get out of bed every day and work long hours, for this feeling of gratitude that customer gave me as I left her home.

As the day progressed and I interacted with my office staff, production and design teams, it seemed like every single person was excited to get spring production underway. They told me about something good that happened in their day or how they were able to resolve a problem or help another team member or customer. Once again...SHAZAM!! It hit me. I remember being that young, starry-eyed landscaper searching for knowledge trying to landscape the world. Nothing could stop me from doing what I had set out to do today...NOTHING!! Once again, I realized how proud I was to be part of an amazing team. A team whose vocabulary doesn't include the word quit and that won't say, "That can't be done."

Because of my customers and my team, I now know I have another 30 years in my blood to continue on this path. I was put on this earth to help others and no matter how difficult a day I am having, when I see the affects of helping people, it makes all the bad go away. Stay warm, enjoy your spring and THANK YOU.

Mark Mazzurco

Mark Mazzurco, President



DID YOU KNOW?

Nick Tinik
Maintenance Production Manager

There is a persistent myth that at the vernal equinox, and only at the vernal equinox, can you stand a raw egg on its end. There is an equally persistent rebuttal that says it's not possible at any time to balance a raw egg on its end. Neither assertion is true. With a little patience (or sometimes a lot), you can balance a raw egg on its end at any time of year. The first day of spring has nothing to do with it.

In spring, the Earth's axis is tilted toward the sun, increasing the number of daylight hours and bringing warmer weather that causes plants to bring forth new growth.

If you were standing on the equator during either the vernal or autumnal equinox, you would see the sun pass directly overhead, the only two times in the year when that is true.

Benjamin Franklin was the first American to propose Daylight Saving Time in 1784. However, it wasn't fully implemented in the US until after the Second World War.

Several singers have sung about spring including Van Morrison (Celtic Spring), Billie Holiday (Some Other Spring) and Frank Sinatra (Suddenly it's Spring).

Spring fever is not just a myth – the body may experience physiological changes due to changes in diet, hormone production and temperature.

DEEP-ROOT FERTILIZATION FOR YOUR LANDSCAPE

Kevin McCausland, Account Manager

Spring is here, and your trees are coming out of their natural "hibernation" state of dormancy. This is the most critical time of year for your plants to have not only enough nutrients, but also the right type of nutrients. If you had struggling trees last year or noticed that your evergreens were not as vibrant of a blue or green color, you could benefit from this type of fertilization.

One of the other reasons to use deep-root fertilization is to boost tree growth. For example: if you have a privacy row of Arborvitae or spruce trees, a few applications could really boost the size and color to provide you with more privacy...faster!

We always come out free of charge to see if you could benefit from this type of service. Call H&M Landscaping today!



SPRINGTIME SPRINKLER TUNE-UP CHECKLIST

Ralph Smith, Account Manager

Sprinkler System Tune-Up Tips from H&M Landscaping to Help You Save Water, Time, and Money in Your Yard.

As the temperatures warm and the lawn and plants begin to thaw, there is no better time than spring to make sure your automatic sprinkler system is ready for another season of efficient lawn and plant watering. Just a few simple steps will go a long way toward saving water and money and preventing a mid-summer landscape catastrophe at home. Get the warm watering season off to a great start by doing the following:

- Check the backflow
- Turn on the water supply
- Let the main line pressurize with water
- Check for leaks
- Activate each zone and check for leaks
- Adjust each sprinkler
- Clean around each sprinkler to remove all obstructions
- Set each zone for the proper run time
- Set the controller (irrigation clock) for proper start times and days to water
- Check and adjust the rain sensor
- Make a final walkthrough and clean-up

Make an appointment with one of H&M Landscaping's experienced irrigation technicians. There is a little more to do than just turning on the water and hoping for the best. We will give you a brief description of what we call, "the H&M way of best practice." This is also a great time to have us test your low-voltage lighting system for proper setup and perhaps upgrade your bulbs to LED lighting as most of us have done inside our homes. These bulbs are warranted for SIX years, eliminating the cost of changing burnt-out bulbs.

Give us a call today to book your appointment, or email Ralph at ralphsmith@hmlandscaping.com. Thank you for your time and Happy Spring!!

OUTDOOR LANDSCAPE CARPENTRY MAINTENANCE

Kevin McCausland, Account Manager

Spring is the time of year when we start to think about putting our patio furniture on our decks and about when we are going to apply an annual coat of stain to our deck. Unfortunately, there are several other carpentry items that do get overlooked outdoors. Some of our customers have overhead pavilions wrapped in Cedar or beautiful pergolas that need some light maintenance at least every other season.

Call our senior construction supervisor, Kevin, who oversees our carpentry division. He will come out at no cost to see how H&M Landscaping can help keep your outdoor living space as beautiful as when it was first installed.



HOW TO CREATE THE PERFECT OUTDOOR PATIO

Steve Fuller, Account Manager

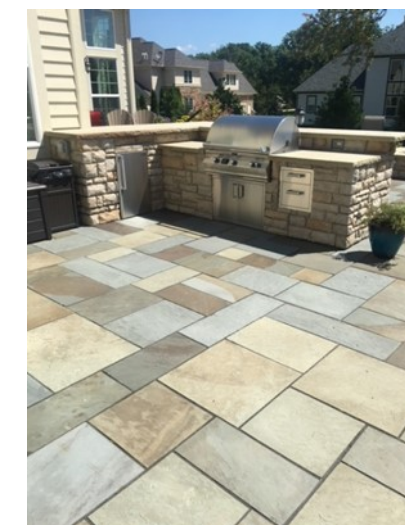
H&M Landscaping of northeast Ohio can bring an artistic look and function to your new patio. It all starts with planning facets that will bring your outdoor space to life; this includes paver selections and deciding what furnishings you want to add to achieve maximum enjoyment.

When we meet with a customer during the design phase of their new patio, we inquire as to what type and size furnishings are planned for this space. Sometimes the furniture is already purchased. Furniture size can be a key factor in fashioning the shape and dimensions of your patio.

Once we have an idea of the size and shape, the real fun begins with what type of material to construct it with. There are endless paver products available through Unilock and Belgard. If you prefer to use a natural-stone product, there are many options as well – Sandstone, Bluestone, Flagstone, etc. Our design team can make recommendations on what product and color scheme would work best for your application.

The final phase is taking all the information we collected and design the perfect outdoor living space that you, your family and friends can enjoy for years to come.

Give us a call at 440-564-1157 for a free estimate. Visit our website at www.hmlandscaping.com to see some of our finished projects. We look forward to helping you through this whole exciting process.



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