

# Concrete Pavers & Slabs



## Color Selection

Colors shown may vary from actual hues and should only be used as a guide. Refer to actual product samples for final color selection. Because concrete products are manufactured with high quality, naturally-mined aggregates and materials, variations in color or shading should be expected in products that are manufactured at different times and in units having different shapes. This color or shading variation is acceptable in the industry. County Materials recommends immediately verifying the product and color upon receipt, and prior to opening pallets. For any discrepancies, contact your local County Materials representative before installation. Use of product constitutes acceptance.



## Proper Color Distribution and Installation Techniques

Color of concrete products may vary significantly between production lots. Install concrete units from several pallets to ensure distribution of color. The contractor must install concrete units in accordance with the landscape industry's best practices according to Concrete Masonry & Hardscapes Association (CMHA) Standard Specifications and the manufacturer's instructions. County Materials is not liable or responsible for loss or damage resulting from improper use, handling or failure to follow installation instructions. Follow all applicable warnings, advisories, and instructions.

## Efflorescence

Efflorescence are deposits of soluble salts and bases, usually white in color, which may appear on the surfaces of masonry or concrete construction. Although it may be an aesthetic concern, efflorescence will not affect structural performance. It's not uncommon for efflorescence to be more easily perceived in darker colors. Although efflorescence cannot be prevented, over time it will wash off or it can be cleaned with an industry cleaner. County Materials accepts no responsibility or liability for the occurrence of efflorescence.

## Joint Material

There are many different jointing materials specific to application requirements and desired results. Options

range from natural sand as specified in ASTM C144 to polymeric sand options. If a polymeric sand is selected, County Materials recommends choosing a product which is void of Portland, Fly Ash and Crushed Limestone (which are ingredients that cause hazing). Joint material should be completely removed from the surface of the pavers. Use of joint material must comply with all instructions provided by the joint material manufacturer, and the joint material method must be performed on a separate mock-up sample not less than 7 feet by 7 feet prior to Buyer approval. County Materials accepts no responsibility or liability for the use of joint material with our concrete pavers and slabs.

## Polymeric Haze

Polymeric haze from the use of polymeric joint sand may appear on concrete paver products if the sand was not installed properly or removed from the surface of the pavers properly. This does not, in any way, compromise the functionality or the structural integrity of the product or your installation. The hazing will weather away naturally with time and rain. Polymeric haze may be removed with an industry cleaner. County Materials accepts no responsibility or liability for the use of polymeric sand with our concrete pavers or any occurrence of polymeric haze or other undesired result.

(Continued from page 1)

### Washing Guidelines

Seasonal maintenance is recommended for all County Materials pavers and slabs. General washing guidelines are provided for the following: organic stains, including fruit, soil and leaf residue, algae and moss stains, and efflorescence. Wash with a hose and stiff broom. Water pressure should be comparable to the average pressure from a home watering hose.

### Cleaning Agents

Concrete cleaning agents are not required but are an option for all County Materials pavers and slabs. There are many different cleaning agents specific to application requirements and desired results. Use of the cleaning agent must comply with all instructions provided by the cleaning agent manufacturer, and the cleaning agent method must be performed on a separate mock-up sample not less than 7 feet by 7 feet prior to Buyer approval. County Materials accepts no responsibility or liability for the use of cleaning agents on our pavers and slabs.

### Sealers

A concrete sealer application is not required on County Materials pavers and slabs but is an option. There are many different sealing agents specific to application requirements and desired results. Use of the sealing agent must comply with all instructions provided by the sealing agent manufacturer, and the sealing agent method must be performed on a separate mock-up panel not less than 7 feet by 7 feet prior to Buyer approval. County Materials accepts no responsibility or liability for the use of sealers on our pavers and slabs.

### Slip Resistance and Ice Removal

Sand is the only material recommended to improve slip resistance on concrete product surfaces. Avoid the use of deicers and fertilizers which contain the following chemicals or compounds: Sodium chloride (NaCl "Rock Salt"), Calcium chloride (CaCl<sub>2</sub>), Magnesium chloride (MgCl<sub>2</sub>), Ammonium nitrate (NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>), Ammonium sulfate (NH<sub>4</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) or Urea. Use of these chemicals may be harmful to concrete products, especially when used

in excess. County Materials accepts no responsibility or liability for the use of deicers on our pavers and slabs.

### Construction Residue

A possible by-product of cutting concrete units during installation with a saw is residue-filled water or concrete dust. Residue-filled water or re-hydrated dust can cling to the surface of units and leave a concrete stain. It is recommended to wash and remove the water or concrete dust from the surface of the paver or slabs before it dries. Construction residue can also happen through soil disturbance or environmental elements. These contaminants should be removed immediately; they do not compromise the functionality or the structural integrity of the product or your installation. County Materials accepts no responsibility or liability for the occurrence of construction residue or concrete stains.

### Compactor and Snow Removal Equipment

Textured paver and patio stone surfaces require a buffer between the plate compactor and the paver surface to prevent scuffing. Refer to County Materials' Interlocking Concrete Paver or Slab Installation Guidelines. Also, snow removal equipment should have the proper spacing, bumper, and rubber blade guards to protect the surface of the pavers. County Materials accepts no responsibility or liability for damage caused by the use of compaction or snow removal equipment that may leave scuffs, burns or other markings on pavers and slabs.

*For more information,  
contact your County Materials' representative.*