

Masonry & Concrete Care Guide

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1. Routine Cleaning

Regular light cleaning is the best way to keep your masonry looking sharp and lasting longer.

- Sweep leaves, dirt, and debris off steps, walkways, and pavers regularly.
- Use a garden hose and mild detergent for most basic cleaning needs.
- Avoid extremely high-pressure washing directly on mortar joints unless performed by a professional.
- Do not use harsh acids or unknown cleaners on natural stone without checking manufacturer guidance.

2. Seasonal Maintenance

- Inspect concrete and masonry twice a year — once in spring and once in fall.
- Note any new cracks, flaking, or loose steps and schedule repairs early.
- Check joints around railings, columns, and steps where water might enter.
- Keep soil and mulch slightly below masonry surfaces to avoid trapping moisture.

3. Sealers & Protection

- Consider a quality sealer for pavers or decorative concrete every few years.
- Use sealers specifically designed for the material (concrete, paver, or natural stone).
- Avoid trapping existing moisture — surfaces should be clean and dry before sealing.
- For heavy-use areas like front steps, ask a contractor which products are appropriate for slip resistance.

4. When to Call a Professional

- Stair cracks, sinking steps, or loose railings.
- Large or expanding cracks in walkways or driveways.
- Water entering the basement near exterior concrete or masonry.
- Movement, bulging, or cracking in structural walls.
- Hazards that could cause trips, falls, or liability issues.

Prompt repairs are usually safer and more cost-effective than waiting for conditions to worsen.

This guide provides general care tips for typical residential masonry and concrete.

Always follow manufacturer instructions for sealers and cleaning products.

Structural issues should be reviewed by qualified professionals.