





WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PAVING STONE VERSUS OTHER TYPES OF PAVED SURFACES?

Source: Interlocking Concrete Paving Institute (ICPI)

CHOOSING THE BEST PAVEMENT	PAVEMENT TYPES	APPEARANCE	STRENGTH & DURABILITY	INITIAL COST & INSTALLATION	MAINTENANCE	SNOW REMOVAL	ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS
	PAVING STONE 	Abundance of styles, colors, surface finishes, and laying patterns makes them easy to integrate into any landscape. Paving stone-sized lights also available to integrate perfectly into any paving stone designs adding beautiful accents to landscapes.	Very long lasting. Compressive strength three times that of slab concrete making them ideal for residential, commercial, and even heavy industrial applications. Also ideal for Southern Alberta's winters where freeze-thaw cycles occur often; individual pavers absorb heaving and movement by flexing, not cracking.	Moderate -- With such a variety of stone to choose from, there is a stone for almost everyone's budget. Easy installation makes it even more cost effective for do-it-yourselfers. Immediately ready to use when installation is complete.	Low -- Factory-made pavers last for decades. Patterns and colors will not wear-out with use. Any irregularities in small areas of laid paving stone can be easily repaired. Stains on stone can be repaired by pulling out dirty pavers and replacing them with new, clean ones. Pavers can be easily removed to gain access to underground utilities and replaced when finished without any noticeable patches.	Smooth surface allows for easy snow removal. Pavers can be colored dark to promote faster melting.	Environmentally responsible; pavers can be lifted and later reused in different applications. Also allows some water to penetrate through which is a benefit for trees planted nearby and also reduces runoff.
	CONCRETE 	Generally grey, but can be colored on the surface or throughout. Cracks are almost certain to develop. Occasional rust spots emerge from steel used in slab construction.	Cracks will occur from base settlement and heaving will develop from freeze-thaw cycles. Strength depends on many factors including where the concrete was mixed, the expertise of the installer, and the weather conditions at the time of the pour.	Moderate -- Quick to install but must wait at least 5 to 7 days for hardening before use (ideally 30 days).	Moderate -- Cracks cannot be repaired and become worse over time. Stains are very difficult to remove. Repairs and replaced sections leave unsightly patches.	Light color will not accelerate snow melting. Easy plowing on smooth surfaces, but watch out for those cracks and heaves!	No water will penetrate into the ground creating runoff. Removed concrete has limited reusability and is often taken to garbage landfills.
	STAMPED CONCRETE 	Surface is usually colored. Patterns look good from a distance, but look artificial up close. Cracks will likely develop.	Subject to cracking and heaving just as regular concrete.	High -- Difficult for homeowners to install since it requires special equipment to stamp stone or paver pattern into surface. Adding colors to concrete increases price.	Moderate -- Same problems as with regular concrete. Additional problem of matching colors and patterns in repaired and replaced sections.	Darker colors will accelerate snow melting. Uneven surface of some patterns and finishes makes plowing difficult	Slab concrete will create water runoff when water is unable to penetrate through. Just as regular concrete, removed stamped concrete has limited reusability and is often destined for the landfill.
	ASPHALT 	Generally black but some color options available. Difficult to get neat looking edges. Cracks will appear over time. Stamped asphalt looks fake.	In addition to cracks from heaving and settling, subject to wear and weathering leading to surface breakdown.	Low -- Goes in quick but can't be installed by homeowner. When adding colors or patterns, price increases dramatically.	High -- Repaired cracks are highlighted by tarring. Black seal coat required every few years. Rut or pothole repairs leave ugly patches. Stamped patterns will wear-out in high traffic areas and disappear with time. Has shorter life span than pavers or concrete. Oil in asphalt tends to track in hot weather.	Dark and relatively smooth surface accelerates snow removal.	Oil used to make asphalt will often end up in landfills when the limited life of the pavement expires. This could be detrimental to the environment as it could contaminate ground water. Just as concrete, water is not able to penetrate through causing runoff.