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*How do I care for my
new concrete driveway?*

Your new driveway is a durable and functional addition to your home. However, the harsh climate of Michigan's winter weather can cause your driveway to deteriorate if it is not properly taken care of.

When your driveway was constructed, Hanneman and Fineis applied a curing and sealing compound to protect its surface. We recommend that you apply a sealant every two years in order to continue to protect and preserve the surface of your driveway.

We also recommend that you do not apply salt or other deicing chemicals to your driveway. These chemicals will attack the surface of the concrete, allowing moisture to penetrate and causing the surface to flake. In the winter, we recommend that you keep your concrete surfaces shoveled and use sand to provide traction.

The Michigan Concrete Association says, "never apply deicers containing ammonium sulfate or ammonium nitrate. These products may be packaged and sold as deicers, but aggressively attack and deteriorate concrete surfaces." You also need to be careful in the application of fertilizers to your lawns and gardens that are near your driveway. Some of the chemicals in the fertilizer can also attack the surface of concrete.

During the first year, the surface of your driveway is very susceptible to damage. If you go to the store and buy a deicing chemical that says "Safe for Concrete" you need to read the fine print which says "concrete must have cured for one year." The care that you extend to your driveway this next winter will reward you with a quality surface for years to come.