

HOW TO MAINTAIN PATIOS & PAVED AREAS

First impressions count, so don't let dodgy driveways and less than perfect patios ruin the look of your house and garden. Tidy, fix, clean and accessorise to transform your outdoor areas into something to be proud of.



STEP 1 Start by clearing the area of garden furniture, old flower pots, the kids' toys and anything else that is making it look untidy. Then give it a thorough sweep-up.

STEP 2 If there are weeds between the bricks or paving stones, clear these out: it will instantly make your patio look tidier and more inviting. Use a weed remover tool to ensure you get the roots, or try a sprayer pack for bigger jobs.

STEP 3 Jet clean dirty surfaces with a power washer or patio cleaner. Be sure to use the right settings and the right equipment for the surface you're cleaning.

STEP 4 Simply de-cluttering and cleaning will make a big difference. Now take a moment to step back, admire what you have achieved and plan what to do next to get the look you really want.

STEP 5 Ensure you have the necessary personal protection equipment. If the surface is concrete, cracks or holes should be repaired to prevent them getting bigger. Chip away any loose material with a chisel and club hammer, and undercut the surface edge a bit to hold filler in place.

STEP 6 If a paving slab is broken or has sunk below the surface level, fixing that will make the space safer and more appealing. Chip out the pointing around the slab and lift it out with a spade. Break up and remove any old mortar before positioning the slab on top of a bed of fresh mortar.

STEP 7 Once your surfaces are cleaned and repaired, create a welcoming environment with a few carefully chosen decorative elements. Some big, bold plant pots filled with fragrant and colourful flowers will add the perfect touch.



TOP TIPS

- 1 To reduce the risk of electric shock, always use an RCD (residual current device) – get expert advice if you're not sure.
- 2 Straighten out any kinks in the pressure washer hoses to ensure a constant water flow.
- 3 When cleaning a patio, use the pressure washer in the fan mode to avoid a streaky finish or hire the patio cleaner attachment.
- 4 Use a rubber pavers mallet to tap paving slabs into position.

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PRODUCTS TO HIRE



Mini Power Washer
£33.06 per weekend
Product code 59112



Patio Cleaner
£14.38 per weekend
Product code 59118



230mm Angle Grinder
£17.97 per weekend
Product code 06331



Garden Spray
£15.81 per weekend
Product code 62650

PRODUCTS TO BUY



Multi-purpose Cleaner
£11.29 (5L)
Product code 17401



Safety Kit
£5.46
Product code 11310



Brick Bolster
£7.10
Product code 19703



Patio Cleaner Fluid
£7.28
Product code 17430



Yard Broom
£10.76
Product code 19658



Ear Defenders
£8.99
Product code 11120

MINI POWER WASHER HIRE PACK

Includes:
Mini Power Washer, Patio Cleaner, Water
Supply Hose and RCD Power Breaker

£46.72 per weekend
Product code 59116

All prices include VAT. All hire products come with a detailed Operating and Safety Guide.

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