

## **Cleaning**

Spills on a stamped concrete patio can be addressed using a basic dishwashing liquid and a nylon bristle brush. Once the stain has been thoroughly scrubbed, rinse well with a garden hose until the soap is completely gone. Dry the area using a leaf blower or allow 24 hours for the spot to air dry. If the entire surface needs a good cleaning, use dishwashing soap and a push broom to scrub the surface. Rinse well with a garden hose and allow the surface to air dry for at least 24 hours. A pressure washer can also be used to clean a stamped concrete patio effectively.

## **Sealing**

When your stamped concrete patio was constructed, it was treated with a sealant to protect it from sun, water and dust damage. This sealant will need to be reapplied regularly to maintain the protection. The first application should be done 30 days after the initial construction of the patio, but not before 7 days. Subsequent applications can be done every two or three years after. Make sure you apply sealant to a freshly washed surface that has dried for at least 24 hours.

Most experts recommend using a combination of sealer and anti-skid solution. Stir the solution periodically as you apply it to ensure the anti-skid formula remains mixed into the sealer. Sealer should be applied using a nap roller rather than a sprayer, since the solution will clog a spray mechanism. Only apply sealant when temperatures are between 55 and 90 degrees. The best time for application is generally in the fall or spring, or in the morning or evening hours during the summer. A second coat of sealant can be used when the first layer is no longer tacky to the touch. Allow at least 24 hours before walking across a re-sealed patio.

## **Protecting**

In addition to sealing your stamped concrete patio regularly, there are other steps you can take to protect the surface. Make sure all patio furniture has plastic glides affixed to the bottom to avoid scratching the patio surface. It is also a good idea to use dishes under all potted plants, especially if you apply a lot of fertilizer to your plants throughout the season. Although sunlight may fade the color of your stamped concrete patio slightly, a new application of sealant should revive the color quite efficiently.

A stamped concrete patio is a lovely addition to an outdoor living space. With proper maintenance and care, your patio will last for many, many years.