

TARMAC DRIVEWAYS

Tarmac maintenance guide

Tarmacadam is a very durable and reliable surface and will last for a long time when cared for correctly. We have put together this brief aftercare guide to help you maintain your new driveway/project going forward.

When can I drive on my new driveway?

Please wait at least 48 hours from when the final course of tarmac was laid. During this period the tarmac will still be very soft, and traffic from vehicles could potentially indent the freshly laid tarmac. Footfall is perfectly fine from the moment it is laid however.

Power steering and tarmac

When tarmac is freshly laid and hot, scuff marks will show up more than when it starts to fully cure down the line. Please ensure you do not use power steering whilst stationary, as this can cause visible scuff marks that can be avoided. This is important during periods of hot weather and during the first 12 months it is laid, as new tarmac can take months to fully cure and harden. This damage is usually superficial and will most likely fade away.

Tarmac indentation and spot damage

During periods of hot weather, and when tarmac is first laid, it could become susceptible to damage from objects that apply pressure in one uneven area. For example, trailer jockey wheels, bike kick stands, ladders, and vehicle jacks can all apply pressure in small, localised areas and can cause indentations. Please consider using appropriate protection, such as mats and wood to spread the weight more evenly to avoid this.

Please also note that electric cars can often contribute towards indentation because of the increased weight of the car. We recommend parking electric cars at different points of the driveway rather than in same localised position.

What do I do about spillages?

Large spills of chemicals (petrol, diesel etc) on your driveway could weaken and cause cracks in the surface, which may require professional repairs down the line. If this occurs, immediately use water to dilute the petrol and diesel, and if oil attempt to soak it up with sawdust or sand. Small splashes of chemicals won't affect the tarmac integrity and can be brushed carefully away with a soft brush and lukewarm water.

What about weeds and cleaning?

Older driveways, especially those with little sunlight exposure can experience some weed growth over time. Use an appropriate (tarmac safe) weed killer to kill the weed, and then very gently scrape away the weed, being careful not to disturb the surface itself. Do not pull out any roots, as this could damage the surfacing, instead use an appropriate root killer if necessary.

If you have soil debris on the tarmac, wait until it is dry and carefully brush it away, and if there is any remaining use water and a soft brush to remove carefully and gently.

Power washing should generally be avoided, as modern jet washes are powerful enough to dislodge the surfacing if used without care. If you do decide to do this, first test it on a small area, or seek a professional to do it for you.