

Spring Home and Garden section

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Fix driveway cracks

If we know one thing about concrete and asphalt, it's that they easily crack. Despite this fact, they still make for the most durable and popular material choices for driveways.

Weather conditions and overall wear make cracks inevitable. Water can seep into or below the surface, expand and eventually damage the material. This is the most common cause of driveway cracks.

Fortunately, there are plenty of products on the market that enable homeowners to fix these types of cracks themselves, without having to go through the trouble of replacing entire sections of driveway.

Every spring, you should take a look around your driveway for signs of winter damage. This is the perfect time of year to find new cracks, and then take the appropriate action to fix them.

Here are three steps to repairing a driveway crack:

1. Choose Your Material

For driveway repairs, the most effective solution is a patch product that comes in both pourable and tubed forms. The pourable option is easier to use only because the tubed form requires a caulk gun for application. Choosing between the two is really a

matter of preference, as both have been proven effective in repairing driveway cracks.

2. Follow the Application Directions

The first step to a correct application usually involves clearing the area of dirt, debris and other foreign objects that would compromise the strength of the material. You could even spray out the crack with a garden hose, letting it fully dry before application. It's recommended that you shake the product vigorously prior to applying.

Be sure to use protective eye-wear and gloves when handling the products.

3. Smooth the Crack

After applying filler to the height of the surrounding pavement, use a putty knife to level out the surface. Sometimes one application isn't enough. Generally, you'll want to wait 24 hours before applying a second coat. Other instructions can include avoiding walking or driving on the surface for up to two days.

Once you have followed the product instructions and waited the recommended amount of time, you should be able to use your driveway as normal for years to come.



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Repair a driveway crack with a tube of concrete repair filler and a scraper.



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