
POLYMERIC JOINTING SANDS

Introduction

Proper installation of pavers of any kind (fly ash, concrete, or clay) is essential for performance of the paving system. CalStar fly ash pavers should be installed following ICPI guidelines, as discussed in ICPI Tech Spec #2 Construction of Interlocking Concrete Pavements.

Polymeric sands are sold as an alternative to standard sands for the final step of paver installation. It is well-known that polymeric sands can leave a haze on or moderately discolor pavers. With effort, this haze can be reduced, though not necessarily entirely avoided.

Some manufacturers of polymeric sands sell a polymeric sand haze-cleaner. Proprietary haze removers and other methods of cleaning can contain strong acids. If not applied carefully, and removed quickly, the cleaners themselves can permanently change the surface of the pavers. Thus, both the polymeric sands, and the cleaning method used to remove them, can change the surface texture and appearance of the pavers. (For general cleaning guidance, see CalStar Technical Note Cleaning Fly Ash Pavers.)

DO NOT use polymeric sands with CalStar pavers. CalStar pavers possess a distinct, crisp, vibrant aesthetic. Use of polymeric sands can result in a haze on the pavers, and a muting of the colors and textures distinct to CalStar pavers.

Use of standard sands and proper installation techniques will provide beautiful, long-lasting paver systems, which deliver both near-term and long-term environmental benefits.

The information contained in this note is based on the best experience of CalStar Products, Inc. While this note makes recommendations, good construction practices should always be followed. Ultimately, the responsibility to make sound technical judgments resides with the project stakeholders, including the owner, architect, engineer, and installer.

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