



## “TECH TIP”

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### JOINT SAND STABILIZERS

Joint sand stabilizers have become more and more popular with both residential and commercial paver customers. If you have not already been asked to price it, you soon will be.

Stabilizers can be considered the same as paver sealers, in that they are another source of profit potential for the paver installer.

Stabilizers and sealers are two distinct products, sometimes with overlapping purposes.

There are several situations where joint sand stabilization can be very useful. Some of them are; with tumbled pavers because of their wider and sometimes uneven joints, under eaves or gutters, in gutters or washes with high water flow, pavers installed at high slope angles and areas that may see regular cleaning and pressure washing (parks, restaurants, etc.)

Another advantage of joint stabilization is that it can help reduce weed growth and ants in the joints.

There are two (2) basic types of joint stabilization. Liquid sealers and dry applied organic, inorganic and polymer compounds.

Liquid applied sealers may also change the appearance of the pavers, as the sealers primary function is to seal and help protect the paver itself. Joint stabilization from some of the seal entering the joint is a secondary advantage.

Dry applied joint stabilizers can be either mixed with your usual joint sand, or purchased in pre-mixed form. One great advantage to dry applied stabilization is that it will not change the appearance of the pavers and can be applied to localized areas only, as under eaves and downspouts etc.

Following installation instructions of either type of joint stabilization product is extremely important. Loose sand left on pavers when liquid sealer is applied will “glue” the sand to the pavers.

Dry applied stabilizers are “activated” by misting with water after the sand has been installed in the joints and ALL excess swept and blown off. Any material left on top of the pavers, or any where else, will be “activated” where it lies and be very difficult to remove.

#### Pricing Stabilized Sand

In pricing your jobs with stabilized sand, be sure to factor in all costs. There is much more than just the cost of the materials involved. Liquid sealers obviously involve additional labor to install. Considerable extra labor is involved also when installing dry applied stabilizers. The extra sweeping and blowing off the pavers take time for which you should be compensated. Predicted wet weather can cause you to have to make an extra trip back to the site for the installation. Neither product can be installed when rain is predicted.