



What's Important to Know When Selecting a Paver

Adding pavers to home remodeling projects has never been more popular, and the choices available to homeowners are many. In fact there are so many choices that the task of selecting which manufacturer to go with can be overwhelming!

Most reputable companies follow certain guidelines as to the manufacturing process of what they put into their pavers. Color and shape decisions aside, the following should serve as a guideline of what to ask your installer about the pavers they plan to use on your project.

- ① **What is the absorption percentage of the materials?** This is extremely important. You want to make certain that your paver meets ASTM standards of an absorption rate that is 5% or less. The lower the absorption rate the better. A low absorption rate means that the paver is dense and is more likely to resist mold, mildew, and that milky looking substance known as efflorescence that can form on a paver. Most manufacturers have published literature or data that details absorption rates. Just make sure that the information provided is by a noted independent testing company to ensure that the results are unbiased.
- ② **Beauty is not “skin deep”!** Many pavers look the same on the surface and appear to be similar from one company to the next. Unfortunately, many consumers make the mistake of purchasing a paver based upon a particular style or color scheme without giving much thought to the structural composition of the materials. An easy way to make sure that the pavers being used will be long lasting is to break the paver into two parts and look inside. There should be an abundance of rock and aggregates which ensure that the paver will be durable. If the paver that you are selecting has sparse amounts of aggregates within the mix, you can be sure that the

paver will have a short shelf life and may not withstand the rigors of our Florida climate.

- ③ **Know the manufacturer's warranty.** Warranties vary from one manufacturer to the next. Most companies will have a minimum of 10 years in which they warrant against structural defects of the materials. Color fading, variation in color blends, and the formation of efflorescence (the milky-looking substance) are not typically covered. That's why it is important to know what the absorption rate of the materials are as stated above. Low absorption rates will eliminate many potential problems with your pavers down the road. Make sure to know what the installer's warranty covers in terms of labor costs, as manufacturers are generally responsible for replacement materials but not the labor costs of the installer.
- ④ **Do your homework!** Check with some of the more noted paver contractors or pool companies in the area and ask them which manufacturer they use and why. If the products your installer is planning on using on your project are not mentioned by other contractors, there is reason for concern. Check the internet, go the Better Business Bureau, etc.

There is no doubt that adding pavers to your home will enhance the appearance and value of your property. Just make sure you get the necessary information to ensure that your paver project will look great for years to come. For more information, visit Thinpavers.com or call C&D Thin Pavers at 1-866-9-PAVERS. □