

A SERVICE GUIDE FOR CONCRETE INSTALLATION

PROVIDED BY



INTRODUCTION

Neighborly Concrete is your trusted partner in providing top-quality concrete installation services. We pride ourselves on providing excellent customer service and satisfaction. We offer free consultations and estimates to ensure that we meet all your specific needs and preferences.

Our hope is that this free Service Guide handout will serve as an educational tool for readers on various aspects of concrete installation and related services, to help them better understand what to expect when they receive estimates from service providers, as well as a source of protection against potential fraud or poor quality services.

The guide provides information on what to consider when choosing a reliable and trustworthy contractor, enabling readers to steer clear of scams, false promises, or subpar workmanship. The guide can help clients avoid common pitfalls and ensure that they receive high-quality service at a fair price.

SERVICE GUIDE BELOW



(704)-313-9504



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HOW DO I GET STARTED WITH THE PROCESS OF REPLACING MY DRIVEWAY?

Contact a reputable concrete contractor in your area and schedule a consultation. The contractor will evaluate your site, discuss your options, and provide you with a detailed estimate for the work. From there, you can decide whether to move forward with the project.

HOW DO I KNOW IF A CONTRACTOR IS REPUTABLE?

Look for a contractor who is insured, has a good reputation in the community, and provides references from satisfied customers. You can also check online reviews and ratings to get an idea of a contractor's quality of work and customer service.

WHAT FACTORS CAN AFFECT THE COST OF A CONCRETE DRIVEWAY REPLACEMENT PROJECT, AND HOW CAN I KEEP THE COSTS WITHIN MY BUDGET?

The cost of a concrete driveway replacement project can be affected by several factors, including the volume of concrete to be removed, replaced, or installed, as well as accessibility, surrounding landscape, elevation changes, and distance to the concrete supplier. Additionally, unforeseen site conditions revealed during the project, such as bad soil, rocky or unsuitable subbase conditions, or an existing driveway thicker than 4 inches, can result in a change order that will add to the final cost of the project. To keep the costs within your budget, it is important to work closely with your professional contractor to identify any potential issues beforehand and discuss possible solutions. Additionally, you can consider factors such as the type of concrete mix, finish, and edging options that may affect the final cost of the project.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR REMOVING AND REPLACING MY DRIVEWAY?

The process for removing and replacing a driveway typically involves breaking up the old concrete, removing the debris, preparing the subgrade, pouring and leveling the new concrete, and allowing it to cure. Your contractor should provide you with a detailed timeline and explanation of each step in the process of their methodology.

HOW WILL THE CONTRACTOR DISPOSE OF THE OLD CONCRETE, AND WILL THERE BE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES FOR THIS SERVICE?

The process involves demolishing and removing the old concrete, which is then transported to a recycling plant where it undergoes processing to turn it into gravel, which can then be repurposed. This service is to be included in the scope of the project, and should not create an additional fee.

HOW THICK SHOULD MY DRIVEWAY BE?

The thickness of your driveway will depend on factors such as the weight of vehicles that will be using it and the soil conditions. According to the American Concrete Institute (ACI) guide, the minimum thickness of concrete for a parking slab can vary depending on several factors such as the expected traffic load, the subgrade conditions, and the climate conditions of the site. The guide recommends a minimum thickness of 4 inches for light-duty parking lots with passenger vehicles only, while heavy-duty parking lots that will accommodate heavier duty trucks, RVs, and buses may require a minimum thickness of 7 inches or more.

IS 4" (INCHES) THICK ENOUGH?

The thickness of concrete needed to achieve a compressive strength or psi (pounds per square inch) will depend on various factors. Generally speaking, a concrete slab or structure that is designed to have a specific compressive strength, such as a 3000 psi mix, will need to be at least 4 inches thick to achieve the batch strength.

WHAT IS FIBER REINFORCEMENT IN CONCRETE AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

Fiber reinforcement is added to concrete to improve its tensile strength and toughness. It consists of small, discrete fibers made from materials like glass, steel, or synthetic fibers. The use of fiber reinforcement helps to disperse stress more evenly throughout the concrete, making it more resistant to cracking and damage from bending or tension. It can also reduce shrinkage cracking and improve the durability of the concrete. Its a versatile and cost effective way to improve the performance and longevity of concrete.

WHAT IS TENSILE STRENGTH AND COMPRESSION STRENGTH? IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?

Tensile strength means how well a material can resist being stretched or pulled apart. Compression strength is how well it can resist being squeezed or pushed together. Concrete's compressive strength is crucial for load-bearing, but its tensile strength is usually lower, so reinforcement is often added to improve durability.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE FOR MY NEW DRIVEWAY TO CURE?

The curing time for your new driveway will depend on the type of concrete used, as well as the temperature and humidity. In general, you should avoid using your new driveway for at least 5 days after it is poured to allow it to cure properly for general vehicle traffic.

WHAT ARE THE COMMON EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PLACEMENT AND SPACING OF CONTROL JOINTS IN CONCRETE, AND WHAT ARE THEIR PURPOSE?

The placement and spacing of control joints in concrete are important factors in ensuring the durability and longevity of the concrete structure. The purpose of control joints is to provide a weakened plane that allows the concrete to crack in a controlled manner, relieving the stresses that would otherwise cause uncontrolled cracking. Generally, the recommended spacing for control joints is 2–3 times the thickness of the concrete, and no more than 24–36 times the thickness of the concrete in feet. For example, a 4-inch thick parking slab should have control joints spaced no more than 8 to 12 feet apart. The depth of the joint should be about one-fourth the thickness of the concrete, or 1 inch in 4. Control joints should also be installed in corners and changes of direction to help prevent cracking. In T-shaped intersections, the control joint should be placed at the intersection of the two slabs, and in 90-degree turns, the joint should be placed at the midpoint of the turn. For curved edges, the control joint should be placed at the apex of the curve

WHAT KIND OF MAINTENANCE WILL MY NEW DRIVEWAY REQUIRE?

Concrete driveways are generally low-maintenance, but you should avoid parking heavy vehicles in the same spot for extended periods of time to prevent damage to the concrete surface and clean up oil spills or other stains as soon as possible. To prevent damage to your concrete driveway, it's a good idea to rotate the parking spots of your vehicles regularly, especially if you have heavy vehicles. This will help distribute the weight of the vehicles more evenly across the surface of the driveway and prevent excessive wear and tear in one spot. It's also important to note that you should never use salt to de-ice your concrete driveway as it can cause damage to the surface. Use sand or an alternative de-icer that is safe for use on concrete surfaces.

WHAT MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THE NEW DRIVEWAY IS PROPERLY REINFORCED AND WILL NOT CRACK OR SETTLE OVER TIME?

To ensure that the new driveway is properly reinforced and will not crack or settle over time, several measures will be taken. Firstly, the base will be prepared by removing any organic materials that could decay and create air pockets, and it will be packed down to provide a stable foundation for the concrete installation. Secondly, the concrete will be applied with a uniform thickness and proper control joint placement to minimize any cracking. Lastly, reinforcement will be used to provide additional strength to the concrete and prevent it from cracking or settling. These measures together will help ensure that the new driveway is durable and long-lasting.

IS IT IMPORTANT FOR A CONCRETE SURFACE TO BE APPLIED WITH A UNIFORM THICKNESS, AND WHAT POTENTIAL ISSUES CAN ARISE IF THE THICKNESS IS UNEVEN?

Applying concrete with a uniform thickness is important because it ensures that the load distribution is even across the entire surface of the concrete. This helps to prevent any weak spots or areas of the concrete that are more susceptible to cracking or settling over time. Additionally, a uniform thickness helps to ensure that the concrete cures at the same rate, which can help to prevent cracking and other issues that may arise from uneven curing.

WHAT TYPE OF WARRANTY OR GUARANTEE DOES THE CONTRACTOR OFFER FOR THEIR WORKMANSHIP AND THE MATERIALS USED IN THE DRIVEWAY REPLACEMENT PROJECT?

Different contractors offer different warranties and guarantees for their workmanship and the materials they use in a driveway replacement project. It's important to ask for explicit outlines of these warranties and the conditions under which they may be voided. A common warranty is one-year guarantee on structural cracks wider than 1/8 inch

HOW WILL THE CONTRACTOR ENSURE THAT THE NEW DRIVEWAY IS PROPERLY SLOPED TO ALLOW FOR PROPER DRAINAGE AND PREVENT WATER BUILDUP?

The contractor will use specialized tools and techniques to ensure that the new driveway is sloped correctly. This may include the use of a transit or laser level to establish the correct slope, as well as the installation of a drainage system, such as a French drain, to direct water away from the driveway. The contractor may also make adjustments to the surrounding landscape, such as regrading the soil or installing retaining walls, to further aid in proper drainage. It is important to discuss these measures with the contractor before the project begins to ensure that your needs and expectations are met.

WILL THE CONTRACTOR BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY POST-PROJECT CLEANUP, AND WILL THERE BE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES FOR THIS SERVICE?

The contractor should be responsible for cleaning up the work site after the project is completed. This should include removing any debris or materials that were left behind during the installation process. The scope of the cleanup should be discussed and agreed upon before work begins, and any additional fees for this service should be clearly outlined in the contract or agreement. It's important to clarify these details with the contractor before the project starts to avoid any misunderstandings or surprises later on.

HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS?

Call us today!