



# Borough of Chambersburg

## Concrete Sidewalk Maintenance Guide

The Borough of Chambersburg has a lot of experience with concrete sidewalks and wants to help you understand how to preserve and protect your new sidewalk. Most notably, we want to help you avoid spalling, which occurs when the surface of the concrete breaks off, flakes or becomes pitted, exposing the aggregate underneath.

Concrete is an amazing material. Soft and easy to manipulate during installation, it soon sets into a solid, stone-like material. This process, called setting and curing, doesn't happen instantly. While concrete will become firm and hard quickly, it remains relatively weak until completely cured, a process that can take some time, depending on temperature and other conditions. How you treat your new concrete will affect it for years to come.

### Tips to help your concrete sidewalk cure and prevent spalling:

**Apply Cure and Seal Compound** – The Borough will require you or your contractor to apply a cure and seal compound on your newly poured sidewalk. It will form a tough and protective covering that acts as a barrier for low moisture transmission and maximum development of the concrete's strength and wear resistance during the early hardening stage.

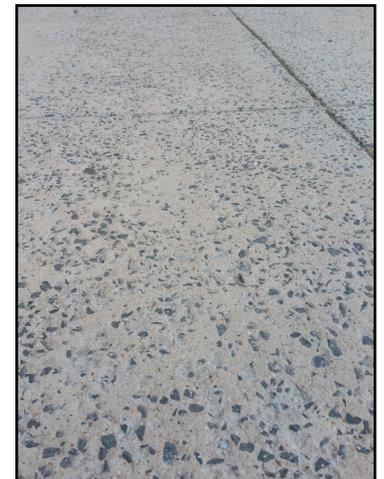
**Keep It Wet** – Keeping your new sidewalk wet, especially when it is exposed to direct sunlight, will help during the curing stage. Saturating your new sidewalk with water at least one time daily for at least 14 days after installation will enhance curing and prevent spalling.

**Avoid Salt and Deicers** – The Borough requires ice to be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours after it collects on your sidewalk. Deicing chemicals can cause spalling. Using salt or deicers during the first winter after your concrete has been poured is especially harmful, but you should avoid using them at any time. Use sand or kitty litter instead or, if salt or deicers are used, be sure to sweep them off the sidewalk as soon as the ice has melted.

**Remove Snow** – The Borough requires snow to be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours after it collects on your sidewalk. Use care when plowing or shoveling your sidewalk. Lift the blade up so that it does not scrape or scar the concrete surface. Using a snow blower with rubber blades will also help avoid damage.



**New Sidewalk**



**Spalled Sidewalk**

### PERMIT REQUIRED

A Curb and Sidewalk Permit must be secured for concrete curb or sidewalk maintenance or new construction. Cure and seal compound specifications will be provided along with your permit. Please contact the Borough Engineering Department at 717-264-5151 with questions about this guide or for assistance with a Curb and Sidewalk Permit.