Patio Performance & Aftercare Guidance

Patios are exposed to changing weather and ground conditions throughout their lifetime. This guidance explains how those conditions can affect paving and the care needed to support its long-term performance.

Ground conditions and seasonal movement

Some soils, particularly shrinkable clay, can shrink during prolonged dry weather and swell as moisture returns. Nearby trees, previously disturbed ground and changes in drainage can also influence ground stability.

Movement beneath a patio can sometimes affect joints, bedding or paving levels. These effects are possible rather than inevitable, and their cause should be assessed individually.

Paving materials and construction

Porcelain, natural stone and other paving materials depend on suitable supporting construction. Where paving is installed on a rigid mortar bed, movement beneath the installation can place stress on the bedding, slab bond or joints.

Ground preparation, foundations, drainage and movement detailing should be appropriate for the site and chosen paving system. The strength of the paving alone cannot prevent problems arising beneath it.

Weather and drainage

Prolonged rainfall, drought, temperature changes and freezing conditions can affect the ground and patio construction in different ways.

Suitable installation methods help manage these risks. However, changing conditions—including tree growth, altered drainage or later work nearby—may affect an installation over time.

Routine care

Low-maintenance paving still requires regular attention. We recommend:

- Removing dirt, leaves, algae and vegetation.
- Keeping drainage channels and outlets clear.
- Following the aftercare advice supplied for your paving and jointing materials.
- Reporting loose slabs, new cracks or persistent pooling promptly.

If a problem develops

At DNA Landscapes, we take appropriate measures during ground preparation and installation to ensure our patios are constructed to a high standard, using suitable materials, installation methods and supporting foundations.

However, even where appropriate construction methods and precautions have been followed, external factors such as prolonged drought, changes in soil moisture, ground movement, tree root activity and extreme weather conditions can affect the performance of paving over time.

The appearance of cracks in paving or joints, loose slabs or changes in paving levels does not automatically indicate defective workmanship or incorrect installation. Such issues can sometimes arise from natural ground movement or environmental conditions beyond our reasonable control.

Should any concerns arise, we encourage customers to contact DNA Landscapes so that the circumstances can be assessed and the likely cause established. We will always aim to work constructively with our customers to identify an appropriate solution.

Where an issue is found to result from defective materials or workmanship, we will address it in accordance with our contractual and statutory obligations. Where external factors are identified as the cause, we will discuss the findings and any suitable remedial options.

This guidance does not exclude or restrict customers' statutory rights.