

# GIVE YOUR HOME A *Grand New Entrance*

by DEVORAH GARLAND

Now that warmer weather is here, a homeowner's fancy naturally turns to thoughts of the outdoors. If it's time to replace the driveway—in the case of asphalt, when it's started breaking up or developing potholes—you have three possibilities: asphalt, interlocking paving stone and impressed concrete.

A new asphalt surface can be enhanced with stone or faux-stone along the edges and around walkways. An interlocking-paving-stone drive can be tied into hard landscaping, such as raised seat-walls and pillars—two hot new trends—for a complete exterior revival. Impressed concrete offers faux stone and stone-brick combinations for personalized results.

"The number one issue is getting a good, solid-packed base," says Russ Michno of GTA landscaping and Asphalt Maintenance. Particularly for asphalt and interlocking pavers, replacing or fixing the base material as required and packing it down will ensure that it properly

ly supports the surface finish.

Sealing the new driveway with an acrylic product is important for all three types of surfaces. Michno says an acrylic sealant applied every year or two will protect from most solvents. "Concrete-based pavers must first be etched, then sealed to protect from salt corrosion."

Do-it-yourselfers will find interlocking paving stone costs about the same as installed asphalt, and double that when a contractor does the work, says Ray Rodenburgh, director of marketing for Unilock®. The company's line of pavers includes a new, antiqued product, Antara™, for an aged and weathered look, and Brussels

Dimensional Stone®, which can be stacked to make pillars and lampposts.

Properly installed, interlocking-paving-stone driveways should last up to 50 years, Rodenburgh says. And there's always the option of relaying the driveway when it's time for a new

look.

"Paver quilting" has become popular," he says.

"Three or four styles are combined together to create a unique look for the home."

Andy Savoie, Sales Manager at Oaks Concrete Products, points out that if installed correctly, pavers can provide a maintenance-free driveway that is firm, flexible and resistant to cracking from the elements. "Sometimes people hesitate because they think weeds will grow in the joints. There are new products such as polymeric sand that prevent airborne seeds from taking root."

According to Frank Corrado, Sales Manager at Perma Paving Stone, "Our products are stronger and more durable than concrete or asphalt. With a variety of traditional and cobbled pavers available, the potential for creating different effects is limitless. For longevity, you can't beat pavers, which is why most companies offer a lifetime warranty on the product."

With a price that's equal or greater than installed pavers, impressed concrete is increasingly popular because of its durability and unique effects. Tinted concrete is poured onto a prepared substrate, then other colourants are added to the surface, into which is pressed patterns which simulate stone and brick finishes.

A look at the sidewalks near your home will prove how long concrete lasts. The same can be said of a professionally installed, impressed concrete driveway, says Cameron Ridsdale, a consultant with the Cement Association of Canada. "Many municipalities are using it along boulevards and sidewalks. You can do a lot of fancy work with it such as mixing brick and stone patterns together." He says the final product is so striking that many people think the faux effect—such as slate, made using grey-tinted cement with green, red, and some ochre surface tinting—is the real thing.

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### INTERLOCKING PAVERS

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