



Why Concrete Pavers?

During the last five years, concrete bricks, incorrectly known as “cement bricks” have been gaining rapid market share. As a masonry unit, clay has always been favoured above concrete. However, new designs and Colour ranges, higher standards, a consumer mindset change, an increase in concrete brick specifications by architects and the relative ease and exactness of producing these bricks have resulted in a concrete brick boom. *Concrete Manufacturers Association of South Africa*

The Features and Benefits of Concrete Pavers

- **Affordable**
Concrete pavers are cheaper than clay bricks
- **Plenty of shapes to choose from.**
Concrete units are exact in dimension. Because of the materials a concrete paver is made from, it is more die-friendly than clay, which means it will accommodate a greater variation of size and shape than clay. You can have concrete pavers in the shapes of circles, squares, rectangles, triangles, or just about any other shape one can imagine. With clay you really only have one choice.
- **Extremely hard wearing**
- **Textured blocks available**
- **Highly accurate sizes**
- **Wide choice of block depths, from 50mm to 80mm**
- **Wide Range of colours**
Concrete pavers colours range from greys and charcoals, to reds, oranges and browns.
- **Longevity** - can last up to 50 years with very little maintenance
- **A wide range of designs and patterns**
- **Not prone to mosses**
- **Easier to cut than the clay paver**
- **Structurally**
Concrete has no such ‘grain’, and as such is a better choice structurally when considering pavements that will receive vehicle traffic, like driveways or streets.
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- **Durability**
Durability is the ability to last a long time without significant deterioration. A durable material helps the environment by conserving resources and reducing wastes and the environmental impacts of repair and replacement. Construction and demolition waste contribute to solid waste going to landfills. The production of new building materials depletes natural resources and can produce air and water pollution. **Durability** of concrete is also defined as the ability of concrete to resist weathering action, chemical attack, and abrasion while maintaining its desired engineering properties
- **High Humidity and Wind-Driven Rain**
Concrete is resistant to wind-driven rain and moist outdoor air in hot and humid climates because it is impermeable to air infiltration and wind-driven rain.
- **Resistance to weathering, including freezing and thawing**
- **Ultraviolet Resistance**
The ultraviolet portion of solar radiation does not harm concrete. Using colored pigments in concrete retains the color in concrete long after paints have faded due to the sun's effects.
- **Chemical Resistance**
Concrete is resistant to most natural environments and many chemicals. Concrete is virtually the only material used for the construction of wastewater transportation and treatment facilities because of its ability to resist corrosion caused by the highly aggressive contaminants in the wastewater stream as well as the chemicals added to treat these waste products.
- **Abrasion Resistance**
Concrete is resistant to the abrasive effects of ordinary weather. Examples of severe abrasion and erosion are particles in rapidly moving water, floating ice, or areas where steel studs are allowed on tires. Abrasion resistance is directly related to the strength of the concrete. For areas with severe abrasion, studies show that concrete with compressive strengths of 12,000 to 19,000 psi work well.
- **Fire Resistance**
Concrete is almost unique in being an inexpensive, readily available building material which is intrinsically fire resistant, needing no additional application of fire protection, and at the same time have structural and aesthetic qualities.