

Paver Benefits

SEGMENTAL PAVING - The most versatile option featuring individual units placed by hand or machine. Superior design flexibility and an upgraded appearance stand out from typical paving applications.

PAVEMENT TYPES	APPEARANCE	INITIAL COST & INSTALLATION	MAINTENANCE	WINTER DURABILITY	SNOW REMOVAL
Concrete Pavers <i>Best Choice</i>	The widest range of surface finishes, colors, shapes, and sizes. Laying patterns can complement the architectural style of any home because of the wide variety of styles available.	Moderate - Tightly fitted, uniform units are placed over a sand bed and a compacted aggregate base. Immediately ready for use. Can be installed by homeowner or an ICPI Certified Professional.	Low—Stained or broken pavers can be easily replaced without patches. Dark colored pavers can help hide stains. Factory-made pavers last for decades.	High—Small, high density units resist cracking as well as damage from freeze-thaw cycles and salts. Pavers are stronger than ordinary or stamped concrete.	Smooth surface allows for easy snow removal. Darker colored pavers help melt snow faster. Snow-melt systems can be easily integrated to eliminate snow and ice removal.
Cobble Stone	Gives elegant, permanent, yet informal “Old World” feel.	Highest—Non-uniform units must be fitted together by hand.	Low—High quality stone lasts for decades. Wide joints may encourage weeds and ants. Rough surface makes walking and driving difficult.	High—High density stone resists cracking and salts.	Rough surface makes plowing difficult.
Clay Brick	Traditionally comes in shades of red and red-brown. Limited shapes and sizes.	Moderate—High-Mortar-set base may be used which increases costs. Natural variations in dimensions may slow installation or cause difficulty in maintaining straight pattern lines.	Low—Natural surface variations may lead to chipping or possible damage.	Moderate—Salts may cause deterioration in some clay pavers.	Smooth surface allows for easy snow removal. Darker colored pavers help melt snow faster.
Other Paving Options					
Stamped Concrete	Surface is usually colored. Patterns designed to give appearance of segmental paving but saw-cut joints may show.	High—Difficult for homeowner to install. Requires special equipment to stamp stone or paver patterns into surface. Surface sealer often used.	Moderate—Cracking may likely develop. Patched repairs may be hard to match to original color. Color fading also possible over time.	Low—Potential for deterioration from de-icing salts.	Uneven surface of some patterns and textures may make plowing difficult.
Ordinary Concrete	Grey or light brown. Can be colored throughout or on surface only.	Moderate—Difficult for homeowner to install and requires 5 to 7 days for hardening before use. Surface quality varies with weather and installation.	Moderate—Cracking may likely develop. Repairs and replaced sections may leave visible patches. Oil stains difficult to remove.	Low—Cracks from freeze-thaw cycles, settlement and salt deterioration may occur.	Smooth initial surface allows for easy removal. Light colored surface may not melt snow rapidly
Asphalt	Few color options. Achieving neat looking edges may be difficult. Stamped asphalt appears painted and artificial	Low—Installs quickly over compacted aggregate base. Must be professionally installed.	High—Wear and weather will break down surface. Black seal coat required every 2-3 years. Rut or pothole repairs leave visible patches. Subject to erosion from oil drippings.	Low—Cracks from freeze-thaw cycles, settlement and salt deterioration may occur.	Smooth surface allows for easy removal. Dark surface accelerates snow melting.
Crushed Stone or Gravel	Typically rustic look. Appearance varies with color and shape of stones.	Low—Dumped and spread over soil (no base required).	High—Scattered stone must be replaced and leveled regularly. Ruts from tires are likely to develop.	High—Stones resist freeze-thaw cycles and salts.	Stones and surface may become uneven during plowing.

Chart reference is taken from the ICPI’s brochure “The Beauty of Choosing The Best Pavement. A comparison guide for consumers” and can be found at www.icpi.org.