

When people look at a beautiful well laid Resin Bound Aggregate driveway ... it reflects on the property's prestige, and more importantly your home's long-term 'feel good factor', a feeling of pride and admiration every day. But, a badly laid resin surface, shows the pitfalls of a cheap job .. so could it be that cheaper resin / aggregate was used, and applied by an inexperienced contractor who probably offered a cheap price?

To apply resin bound aggregate product successfully, select a reputable and experienced contractor, then do go and see his completed work projects ... pay cheaply and you pay twice!, i.e.

(1) Monetary cost to put right (2) Emotional cost, as your family (and neighbours) have to live with the dire results daily. A professional and inspiring resin driveway doesn't come cheap, prices are in the region of £110-£150m², an overlay is less, the cost being dependant on the existing base. If you use sub-standard resin and/or don't use a resin driveway specialist, then you really cannot complain when things go wrong (see images below) ... **Quality is All.**

***** Block and Stone provide a 'workmanship' Guarantee alongside the manufacturer's 'product' Guarantee *****



(i)

This Resin Bound Aggregate surface had been down 5 years: issues began almost at once – i.e. cracking, crumbling, wearing of surface showing tarmac base:

- (i) Generally horrible result, and left householder wishing he had not gone for the cheapest quote.
- (ii) Resin laid too thinly, only 5-10mm (should be min 18mm),
- (iii) cracks exacerbated by action of frost / freezing are deep to the base tarmac and have gradually expanded through time.
- (iv) Resin Bound mix all 1-3mm aggregate and not enough resin to bind properly, so crumbly i.e not to standard mix formular,
- (v) cracking is also evidenced along the lines of where the new mixes are trowelled against the previous mix .. too dry to blend.



(ii)



(iii)



(iv)



Banding, where mixes have been left for too long, so resin product dried out and does not blend into newly laid mix. Also inexperienced floater, has not floated to compensate for irregular level of underlying base.

The dreaded 'white patching': it is essential to lay resin on a dry day, on a dry surface, as water effects the resin, as does using 'damp' aggregate. Everything must be dry.



Most common issues with Resin Bound Aggregate Surfaces (we have come across) – 12.11.2020

	<p>Mixes are 'rainbow' effect, i.e. the mixing process has not been controlled / consistent whilst in the mixer. More or less time gives a lighter or darker tone to the mix.</p> <p>Patching: It is possible to patch in new resin bound aggregate to existing surface, but, the new mix may not be mixed to the same time limits / may age differently and also there may be a 'join' line whereby dirt can get into the edges.</p>	
	<p>Water standing on the Resin Bound Aggregate surface:</p> <p>(i) basically, the underlying base is not permeable = sub-standard and not fit for purpose. (ii) When overlaying with Resin Bound Aggregate, the existing base must be treated to ensure water runs off within the curtilage of the property.</p>	 <p>No base installation, so resin surface will crack and ripple when vehicular weight on top - think of icing on a sponge cake!</p>
	<p>Trowelling / Floater marks, where the inexperienced floater has left marks in the finished Resin surface, usually as a result of</p> <p>(i) incorrect trowelling to smoothly blend the resin surface, (ii) over-working the resin, (iii) the resin mix is left too long = too hard to be trowelled properly, (iv) the temperature is too hot to lay resin, especially on a tarmac surface, so drying time much less.</p>	
<p>Tree root action = cracking i.e. the base layer has not been prepared correctly: tree roots need to be cut out and/or encouraged to grow downwards. Also, base structure is substantial enough to withstand root invasion i.e. include steel reinforcing mesh. However, 'nature will win eventually' ... so cracks may be unavoidable in the long-term, especially near to mature trees.</p>		<p>Moss on the surface: ensure that the surface is cleaned regularly / annually with a jet wash and for any stubborn marks, use soapy water.</p> <p>Note: always ensure you use an Aliphatic UV Resin, cheaper resins may not be UV stable and so after exposure to direct sunlight:</p> <p>(i) develop an overall yellow tinge,</p>

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Invasion of weeds through the Resin surface:
(i) Base preparation is not sufficient i.e. may not have included permeable membrane(s) to stop the weeds coming through.
(ii) Resin surface is too thin / wrong mix so that resin has not formed a bound surface and seeds have lodged in the surface and grown, over time roots will destroy resin.

(ii) or, if you leave your car on the driveway during sunlight hours, you may find that area stays darker whilst rest of driveway fades.
(iii) So only use cheaper non-UV Resin with resin Bonded applications.
(iv) Resin Bond Aggregate is a cheaper and non-permeable surface.

One of the biggest problems in the industry are Clients wanting / being offered a 'cheaper' job ... if your're on a restricted budget, then please consider from the many alternative surfacings that are available, by opting for a cheaper resin quote - you will probably end up paying twice, so choose wisely and love the look©



**Just two of
Block and Stone's
'feel good factor'
clients**

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