

Zimbra Collaboration Suite

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News from comak bros. inc.

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COMAK CLIPPINGS

Spring/2010

32 YEARS OF GROUNDS & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

[click](#) here to visit our

website www.comakbros.com

978-535-1227



Just Thinking:

Thirty two years! It can't be. It seems like only yesterday that we started maintaining landscapes of homes on the North Shore. We have met a lot of people along the way, and made a lot of friends.

About 28 years ago, the Gypsy Moth was the scourge of the forest. While they are still around (and making a comeback), this year its the Winter Moth. Please don't take them lightly, they will hurt your trees and shrubs.

Five years ago, Japanese Beetle grubs had the #1 spot. They also are still around, but their damage to lawns is not as costly as pests that weaken and can kill mature trees.

It's always something!!!

Don't believe global warming exists? The poison ivy and the insects do. The small temperature changes have helped them thrive.

I guess working with nature over 32 years has shown us that things are constantly changing. Its always the little things that seem to add up to a





WINTER MOTH CATERPILLARS-- THEY'RE COMING!!!!

Last November and early December all those winter moths may have seemed harmless, but this spring their offspring will be chewing up the landscape throughout eastern Massachusetts.

Please click [here](#) to be connected to the University of Massachusetts extension service overview of the situation.

Within the past three years, many trees have died in SE Massachusetts from the stress of this defoliation coupled with drought and other factors. Several years of defoliation often weakens trees to the point where secondary agents (sometimes known as 'weak invaders') can overcome what is left of a tree's natural defenses (due to repeated defoliation) and kill the tree. This year the moth caterpillar population is predicted to be double what it was in 2009.

If you value the mature landscape trees on your property, please contact us by March 15th so that we can price, schedule and provide you with the qualified people to apply the proper materials to keep these insect pests at bay.

RESTORING THE BEAUTY OF YOUR PAVER HARDSCAPE

For some homeowners, looking at the state of their home's hardscaping can be a tough sight to bear. The faded driveway, discolored path and putrid patio reveal the results of hardscaping that has suffered far too much from the effects of traffic and outdoor elements.

The good news is thanks to the latest technology in stain removal and sealants you

lot.

Looking forward to the change of seasons. We are tired of Winter...



SYNTHETIC TURF FOR EXTREME SHADE

Over the past 32 years I wish I had a nickel for every homeowner who has asked me to help them grow a thick lawn in dense shade under a beautiful shade tree. They always say the same thing. "The lawn used to be thick." They always swear that the trees in the area really haven't grown that much. The fact is grass doesn't grow in the woods. No matter what you see on TV, Shady turf grass seed mix, will grow but will never become thick in shade. Shaded back yards are the perfect situation for artificial turf. It requires no mowing, watering, and will clean up easily in Spring and Fall. It takes the wear and tear of child's play, pets, and just normal everyday use.

Call or email to see if the new modern synthetic turf is right for you.



Fun Facts about Bugs

Houseflies find sugar with their feet, which are 10 million times more sensitive than human tongues.

Ticks can grow from the size of a grain of rice to the size of a marble.

Approximately 2,000 silkworm cocoons are needed to produce one pound of silk.

While gathering food, a bee

can freshen up and restore the beauty of your pavers and preserve them for years.

"While pavers offer superior durability, they're often subjected to harsh conditions and are not impervious to stains from motor oil, barbecue grease, fertilizer, tire marks, paint spills, etc.," said Rick DeMarchi, Director of Marketing for Techniseal, the leading manufacturer of treatment products for the concrete paver industry. "General wear and tear, dirt and the effects of the elements can also cause pavers to lose some of their original beauty."

That beauty can be revived, he added, with a thorough cleaning with appropriate products and preserved by applying a sealer.

Cleaning and sealing pavers is typically a three-step process.

The first step is the removal of obvious stains and dirt.



Some simple cleaning techniques are to rub some dishwasher detergent into the stain, scrub it with a clean broom, and rinse it with a hose. If this doesn't work, make a solution of one-third household bleach to two-thirds part water and then rinse again. If the stain is a mineral like rust, try one-fourth vinegar to three-quarters water. If none of these mixtures does the trick, you can try using the appropriate paver spot cleaners. Not all stains require the same cleaners. For example, Techniseal has designed specific cleaners for ground in dirt, rust, tar, oil, and grease stains.

PRESSURE WASHING



When it comes to outdoor cleaning, nothing beats a good scrub, wash, and rinse. However, if your garden hose isn't cutting it, you may want to try something a little stronger. To remove moss, mildew, and built up heavy duty staining, power washing may be your best alternative. These high-powered sprayers are operated by a gas, diesel, hydraulic, or electrical motor which can remove stains, grit, dirt, mildew, moss, and even paint. Therefore they're great tools for preparing the hardscape for sealing. Sometimes after you've given a deck or patio a good facelift, you may find them so sparkling clean you'll no longer need to use any cleaning solutions at all.

Step two of the process is to even the appearance of the entire surface after spot cleaning. For this step DeMarchi recommends Techniseal's Hardscape cleaner, a more gentle phosphate-free formula created specifically for pavers. It's ideal for removing general grime and dirt. It ensures even cleaning and brightens up the color prior to sealant application.

The third and final step is the application of the sealer protection. While sealant technology continues to evolve, sealants can be broken down into a few key categories:

may fly up to 60 miles in one day.

Ants can lift and carry more than fifty times their own weight.

Mexican Jumping Beans, sometimes sold commercially, actually have a caterpillar of a bean moth inside.

It takes about one hundred Monarch Butterflies to weigh an ounce.

When the droppings of millions of cattle started ruining the land in Australia, dung beetles were imported to reduce the problem.

Wasps feeding on fermenting juice have been known to get "drunk" and pass out.

- **Film-forming versus non film-forming**
- **Color enhancing (wet look) versus non color enhancing (dry look)**
- **Solvent-based versus water-based**
- **All are stain resistant**



The selection of a sealer will depend on certain criteria. For example, if the pavement to be sealed is around a pool, then a non film-forming sealer that has no impact on slip and skid resistance would be best. If distinct colors are important, then a color enhancing sealer will help best to make the colors stand out. Or you may prefer a natural or an invisible sealer to preserve the natural look of the paver colors.

You can expect these sealants to repel countless stains for the next five years and avoid prematurely aging your pavement. Re-application will also be easier as there will be a significant amount of sealer remaining in the capillaries of the pavers. More information on sealant technology can be found at www.techniseal.com.
Comments

INFORMATION FOR THIS ARTICLE WAS TAKEN FROM THE SUN JOURNAL.COM

IF THE CLEANING AND RESEALING PROCESS SOUNDS A BIT MORE THAN YOU WOULD LIKE TO TACKLE, PLEASE CONTACT US TO SET A FREE ESTIMATE TO RESTORE AND SEAL YOUR PAVER SURFACES

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