

It stands to resin

Professional Builder's Lee Jones visits a Resin Drives team who were busy transforming a Sarah Beeny's driveway by leaps and bounds

Resin bound drives have traditionally found their place in the commercial sector. Given the range of colours and patterns that can be achieved the opportunity to feature corporate colours and logos, for instance, has seen installations proliferate in everything from hotels, to company headquarters, and even at some of the most prestigious Premier League football grounds, but that creativity in design can just as successfully enliven a domestic space.

With the aggregate supplied in a comprehensive palette of standard shades the decorative potential is enormous, but completely bespoke colours can be produced on request at the Derbyshire quarry where the material is originally sourced. Moreover, the use of templates on site means that a plethora of patterns and styles can be achieved, which includes lettering or more pictorial shapes and representations.

There are essentially two methods of achieving a resin drive installation. Historically, the most common has been the resin bonded method, where the resin, which is essentially a glue, is laid first and the stones are then cast on top. With a resin bound installation, as at the West London job featured here, the resin and the aggregate are combined in a mixer before being transferred to a wheelbarrow and deposited on the required area ready for spreading.

In this instance, the Resin Drives team make use of a 120litre capacity force paddle mixer with 4 bags of

aggregate combining with one tub of Part A and one tub of Part B resin. As well as that a cup of resin bound crushed glass is added to that mix for greater traction on the new surface. Application is a relentless operation for the team on the tools because, realistically, you're only going to get around 15 minutes before you can stop moving it with the trowel.

Application

The resin should be laid at roughly 15 – 18mm, depending on how level the existing substrate is, but it's not necessary to apply a lot of pressure with that trowel – instead it's more a question of smoothing out the material and trying to find any lumps. In terms of tools, all that is required is a spazzle to pull the material back when it's been emptied from the barrow, a finishing trowel, and some white spirit to keep the trowel free of resin residue. A newly laid drive will take around four hours before it will go off to the extent that it can accept foot traffic, and 24 – 48 hours should be allowed before driving on it.

Some companies will lay on hardcore but you should really only be laying resin drives on concrete or asphalt. If the client does have a tired looking tarmac drive that's still in relatively good condition then a resin bound drive can transform it in comparatively quick time.

The Resin Drives team on Sarah Beeny's site were four strong and report that a group of three or four guys could complete an average of 200 metres in a



driveway installation

day. Recently, the same laying team as on the West London site completed a complex, month long job for Uri Geller that was over 2,000metres in area.

Guarantee

The finished installation itself is porous so there's no issues with drainage and it's resistant to weed growth. In addition, occasional power washing is all the maintenance that's required and even the most vigorous of these will not release any of the stones. In fact, the company offers a five year guarantee on its installations.

Kerb appeal seems to be something of a buzz word in the building industry at present with homeowners and housebuilders alike recognising that differentiating a property's façade from neighbouring homes can have a positive impact on value. With the decorative potential that Resin Drives provides, it's possible to do just that.



MORE INFORMATION

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