

Either ensure good maintenance or design out the need

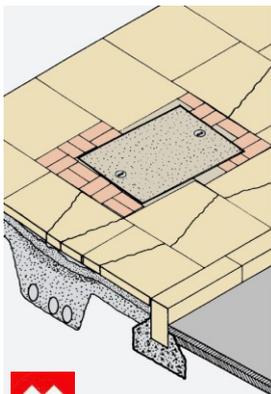


Well designed and well maintained natural stone paving

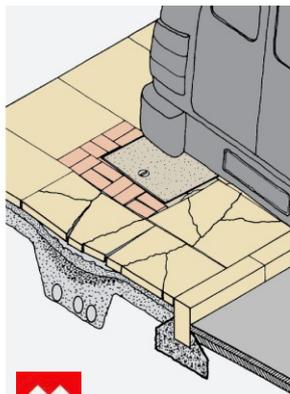
LOW MAINTENANCE DESIGN

Paving needs to be designed so that it will not need very much maintenance. The construction needs to be strong enough to withstand the likely use. British Standard 7533-12-2006 gives a good indication of the construction specification required for pedestrian areas which are occasionally used by vehicles. In practice this condition applies to most, or at least parts, of many pavements subject to vehicle overrun.

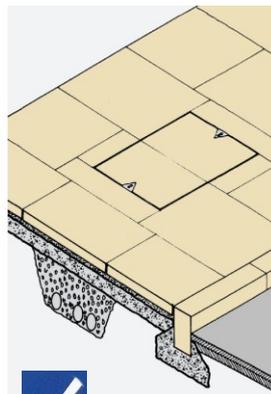
It also needs to be recognised that most pavement slabs are at some time likely to be lifted to access underground services such as pipes and cables. The easier it is to lift the slabs, the less likely they are to be damaged and the more likely to be reused.



A Service trenches, poorly backfilled



B Slabs become damaged



C Strengthened paving with slabs running across inspection cover

SERVICE TRENCH REINSTATEMENT

Most paving materials look very good when they are first laid.

A common cause of damage to pavements is when a service trench is dug and then poorly reinstated. If the material in the trench has not been properly compacted it sinks and fails to sufficiently support the slabs which then drop and crack.

Sometimes the original good quality surface materials are not replaced like for like, and an unsightly, temporary blacktop surface is left permanently.

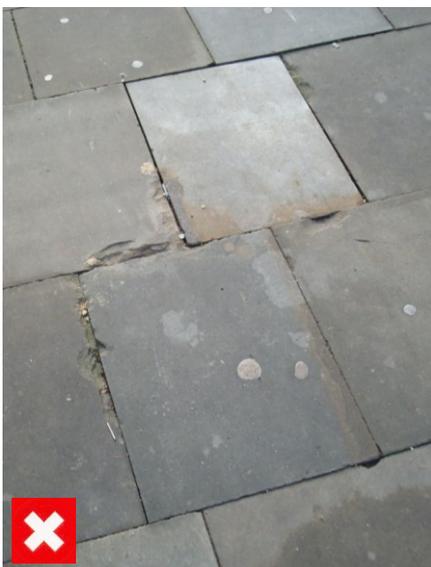
Manhole, or inspection covers in pavements can be installed so that they are aligned with the paving slab pattern. This is an elegant way to visually integrate practical equipment into pavements.

ENFORCEMENT

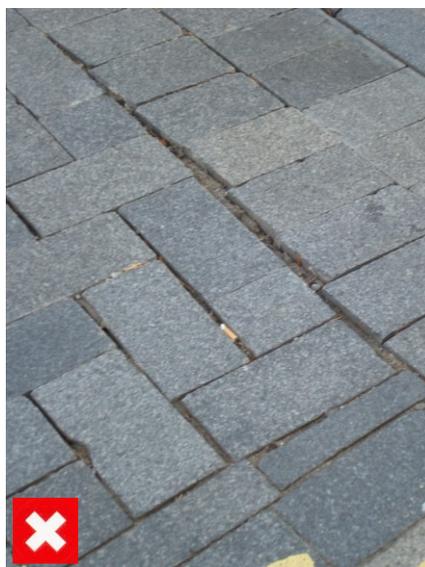
Service companies and their contractors are required under the New Road and Streetworks Act 1991 (Code of Practice 2010 - Department for Transport) to reinstate pavements to the original standard after they have carried out repairs or maintenance work.

Some authorities are able to insist on a high quality of maintenance by making their standards known and, if they are not met, by carrying out the reinstatement works themselves and charging the cost to the service company's contractors.

Where unusual materials have been used, stocks are often kept for maintenance purposes by the highway authority and sold to the service company's contractor. Otherwise only readily obtainable materials should be used in the original design.



Natural stone damaged when replaced



Granite blocks on an insufficiently strong base