

Use the right pavement specification at the right location and save money

AVOIDING BROKEN PAVING SLABS

Safe, clean, comfortable pavements encourage people to walk and enjoy the experience. Traditionally shaped large natural stone or concrete slabs can be an elegant solution. But broken paving slabs are dangerous. People can trip over them. They are uncomfortable to walk on, collect litter and have the feel of neglect.

To protect paving slabs from vehicle loading, some councils install bollards to prevent vehicle overrun.

Apart from the clutter this can create, bollards reduce the width of a pavement available to pedestrians and present an additional obstruction to blind or partially sighted people. They are also likely to be damaged from time to time and so increase the maintenance burden.



Broken paving slabs are unsightly



But rows of bollards are almost as bad

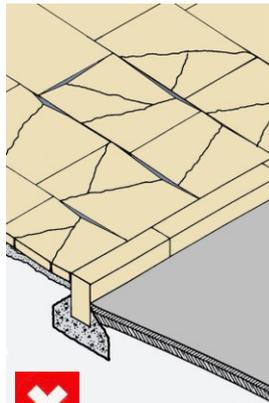
STRENGTHENED SLABS

A more durable solution to prevent broken slabs is to strengthen them so that they can withstand the imposed loads.

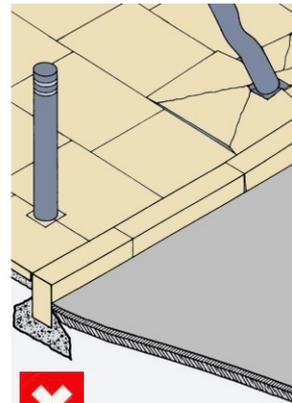
The usual reason that slabs break is that they are not sufficiently supported underneath by the bedding arrangement. If a wheel of a lorry runs over the slabs, the heavy load will snap the slabs like biscuits.

The answer is to strengthen the slabs and/or the bedding accordingly.

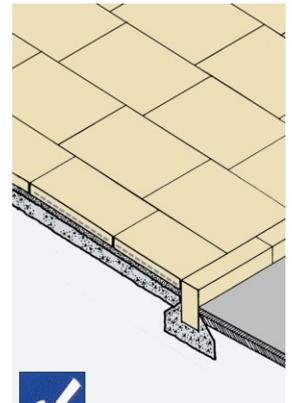
The method of strengthening depends upon the likely weight and frequency of the overrunning vehicle wheels.



A Broken slabs are ugly and dangerous



B Bollards reduce pavement width



C Strengthened slabs and/or base, provide a safe, clean, durable surface

Safe, robust and wide pavements encourage people to walk more often

STRONG AND TIDY

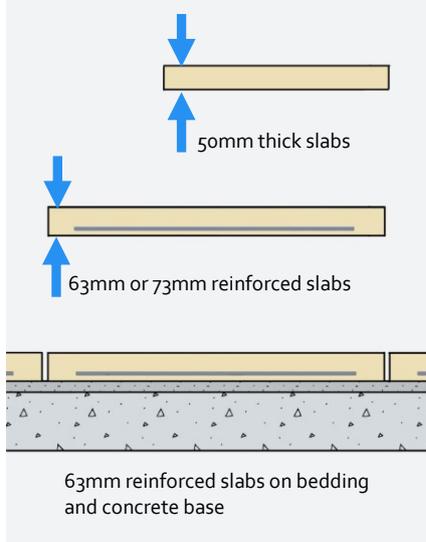
The method of strengthening depends upon the likely weight and frequency of vehicle overrunning. The result should be a neat and tidy permanent pavement.

The common alternative slab types are:

- 50mm thick slabs
- 63mm or 73mm thick steel reinforced slabs
- 63mm thick steel reinforced slabs on bedding and base concrete.

Where a pavement is likely to frequently be overrun by large vehicles, the base should be designed to be as strong as the adjacent road.

It is important that the strengthened paving slabs look exactly the same as the rest of the pavement, so that the whole pavement looks as uncluttered as possible.



Choice of thickness depends upon the site



All the slabs should have the same appearance