

The Homeowner's Guide to Choosing a Resin Driveway or Patio

How to avoid expensive mistakes and choose a surface that's built to last.



everstone

STRENGTH BELOW, BEAUTY ABOVE.

Welcome

Choosing a new driveway or patio is a significant investment. Most homeowners only do it once, so it's important to get it right.

Unfortunately, resin-bound surfacing can appear similar on the day it's installed, regardless of how well it's been built. The real difference often becomes apparent years later, when poor preparation leads to cracking, movement or drainage problems.

This guide explains the questions worth asking before choosing an installer, the different ways a resin surface can be constructed, and why what's underneath the surface matters just as much as the finish you can see.

Our aim isn't to persuade you to choose Everstone. It's to help you make an informed decision, whoever you decide to commission.

Alan Humphrey

Founder,

Everstone Exteriors

Why This Guide Exists

We've visited many homes where the homeowner believed they only needed to choose a colour.

In reality, colour is one of the final decisions.

The biggest factors affecting longevity are:

- Condition of the existing base
- Drainage
- Ground movement
- Construction beneath the resin
- Whether the surface is suitable for an overlay or requires rebuilding

Understanding these points before accepting a quotation can save thousands of pounds in future repairs.



How to Choose a Resin Installer

Don't compare quotations purely on price.

Instead ask:

- What preparation is included?
- Will my existing base be assessed?
- Is overlay actually suitable?
- What happens if drainage needs improving?
- How will movement be prevented?
- What resin system is being installed?
- What isn't included within the quotation?

A good installer should explain why they're recommending a particular solution, not simply provide a price.

The Everstone Method

Every property is different.

Everstone assesses every project before recommending one of three approaches:

Refresh – for structurally sound existing surfaces.

Reinforce – where additional stability is required without complete reconstruction.

Rebuild – for failed surfaces, unstable ground or driveways requiring a fully engineered foundation.

BUILT TO LAST

& SERVICE TIER COMPARISON

Three engineered systems. Three levels of performance.
Choose the system that fits your project.

refresh



DURABILITY LEVEL: GOOD

Service: System Refurbishment

- Addabase™ mesh interlay over existing base.
- Non-SuDS-compliant (Non-permeable over existing base).
- Base verification required.

reinforce



DURABILITY LEVEL: HIGH

Service: Reinforced System Optimization

- Compacted aggregate base with Addabase™ mesh.
- SuDS-compliant structure.
- Surface excavation required.

rebuild



DURABILITY LEVEL: MAXIMUM

Service: Full Rebuild & Comprehensive SuDS

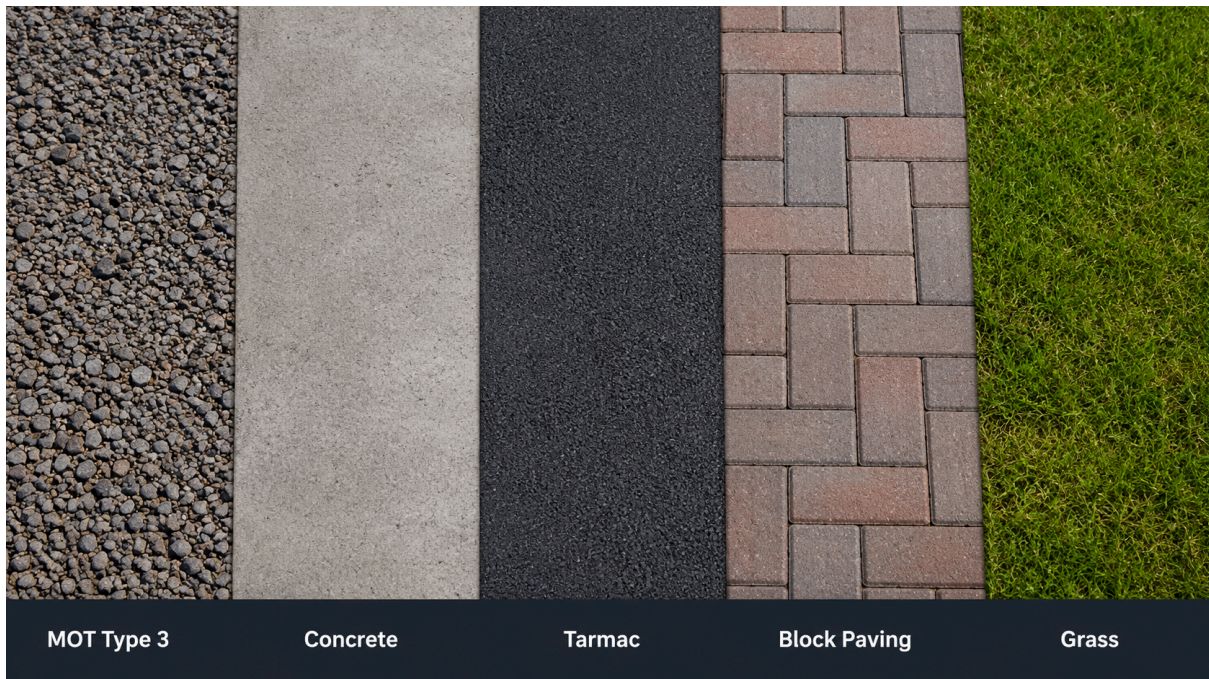
- Open-graded MOT Type 3 porous sub-base.
- Comprehensive SuDS system.
- Full excavation required.

What's Beneath the Surface Matters Most

Most people judge a driveway or patio by what they can see.

Professionals judge it by what they can't.

The resin finish is only the final layer. Beneath it may be the sub-base, drainage, reinforcement, edging, regulating layers and structural support. When these are correctly designed, the finished surface has the best chance of performing well for many years.



Common Resin Myths

Myth 1: "All resin driveways are the same."

Reality: They may look similar on the day they're installed, but what lies beneath the surface makes all the difference. Base quality, drainage and installation determines how well a resin surface performs over the years.

Myth 2: "The cheapest quote is the best value."

Reality: Lower prices often mean compromises have been made in the preparation or foundation. While this may save money initially, it can lead to cracking, movement and expensive repairs later. Good value is about long-term performance, not just the lowest price.

Myth 3: "Resin can always be laid over concrete."

Reality: Not every existing surface is suitable for an overlay. Concrete must be structurally sound, stable and properly drained. A professional site assessment is essential before deciding whether an existing base can be reused.

Myth 4: "Resin never needs maintenance."

Reality: Resin-bound surfacing is low maintenance, not maintenance-free. Occasional sweeping, removing leaves and moss, and the occasional gentle pressure wash will help keep your surface looking its best for years to come.

The Truth

Every property is different. Ground conditions, drainage, and existing surfaces all influence the best solution. That's why every Everstone project begins with a site assessment. We don't believe in one-size-fits-all installations—we recommend the approach that's right for your home, whether that's **Refresh, Reinforce or Rebuild**.

Questions Every Homeowner Should Ask

Before accepting any quotation, ask:

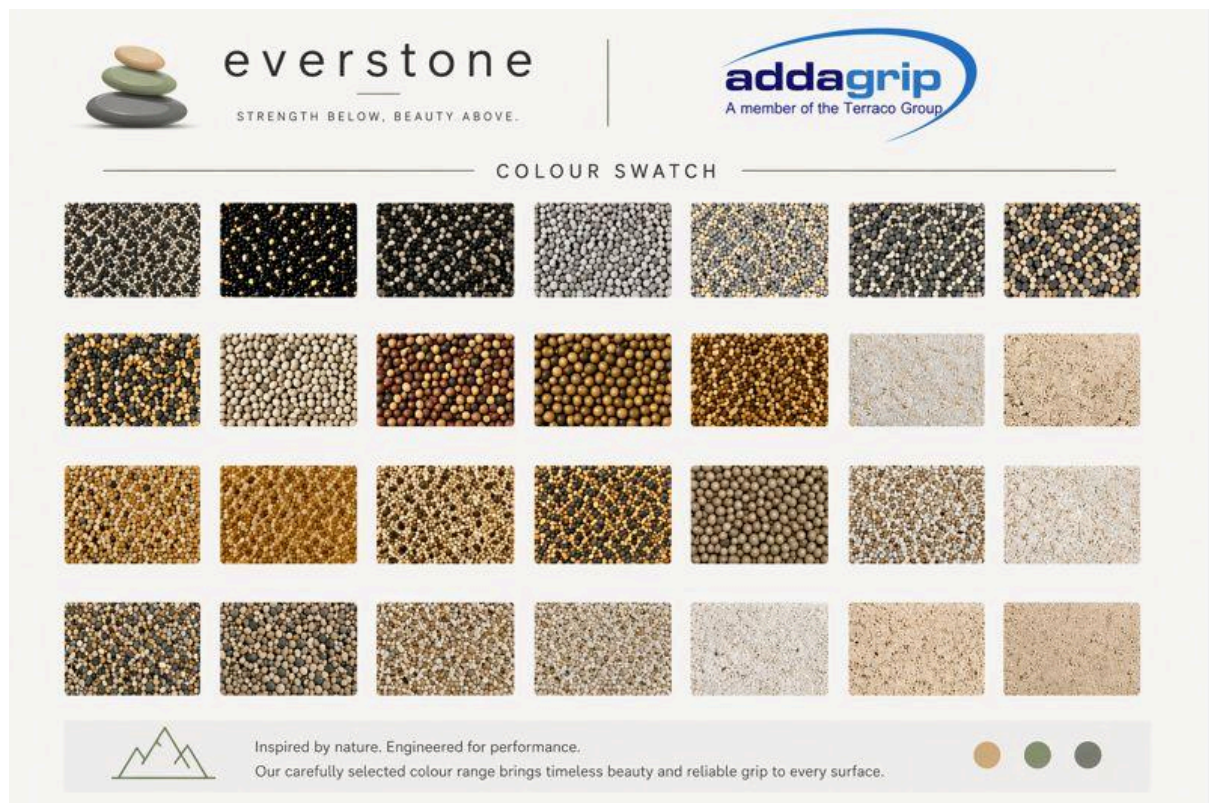
- What have you based your recommendation on?
- Is my existing surface suitable?
- Why have you chosen this construction?
- How will drainage work?
- What preparation is included?
- What could increase the cost later?
- How long should this system last?
- What maintenance will be required?



Planning Permission & Colour Selection

Many permeable resin-bound driveways can avoid planning permission requirements where installed correctly, although every property is different.

Choose colours that complement your home, roof, brickwork and surrounding landscape. Natural tones generally age more gracefully.



What to Expect During Installation

Typical stages:

1. Site survey
2. Ground assessment
3. Preparation or excavation
4. Drainage improvements
5. Structural layers
6. Resin installation
7. Finishing details
8. Curing
9. Handover



Frequently Asked Questions

How long does a resin-bound driveway or patio last?

A professionally installed resin-bound surface can last **15–25 years or more**. The key isn't just the resin itself—it's the quality of the foundation underneath. A well-built base is what delivers long-term performance.

Can resin be laid over my existing surface?

Often, yes. If your existing concrete or tarmac is stable and in good condition, an overlay may be possible. However, cracked or unstable surfaces usually require additional preparation or a complete rebuild.

Is resin slippery when it's wet?

No. A quality resin-bound surface provides excellent grip in both wet and dry conditions. Additional anti-slip aggregate can also be incorporated where extra traction is required.

Will weeds grow through it?

Very rarely. Because resin-bound surfacing forms a continuous surface, weeds are unlikely to grow from underneath. Occasional airborne seeds may settle on the surface, but regular sweeping and light maintenance keep it looking its best.

Does a resin driveway need planning permission?

In most cases, **no**. Resin-bound surfaces are permeable, allowing rainwater to drain naturally. This often removes the need for planning permission, although every property should be assessed individually.

How much maintenance does it need?

Very little. Regular sweeping and an occasional pressure wash are usually all that's required to keep your surface looking clean and performing well.

How long does installation take?

Most domestic installations take **1-5 days**, depending on the size of the project, the amount of preparation required and the weather conditions.

Why do resin driveway prices vary so much?

The biggest differences are usually hidden beneath the surface. Preparation, drainage and the quality of the sub-base have a far greater impact on longevity than the resin itself. Two driveways can look identical on day one but perform very differently years later.

How do I know if my existing base is suitable?

The only reliable way is through a professional site assessment. At Everstone, every project is carefully evaluated before recommending whether to **Refresh, Reinforce or Rebuild**, ensuring you only pay for the work your property genuinely needs.

What's the biggest mistake homeowners make?

Choosing an installer based on price alone. The appearance of a new resin surface is only part of the story. The real difference lies beneath the surface. A properly engineered foundation is what prevents cracking, sinking and costly repairs in the years ahead.

Still have questions?

Every property is different, and there's no one-size-fits-all solution. If you'd like honest advice about your project, we're always happy to carry out a site assessment and explain the options—without pressure or obligation.

Why Homeowners Choose Everstone

At Everstone we believe every successful project starts long before the resin is mixed.

We focus on understanding the ground beneath your feet, recommending the right construction method and delivering a surface designed to perform for years to come.

Want to learn more?

This guide covers the essentials. If you'd like a more in-depth understanding, including construction methods, drainage, resin systems and real project case studies—we'll send you our **Complete Homeowner's Handbook** after your free Everstone site assessment.

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