

## Homeowners Clinic

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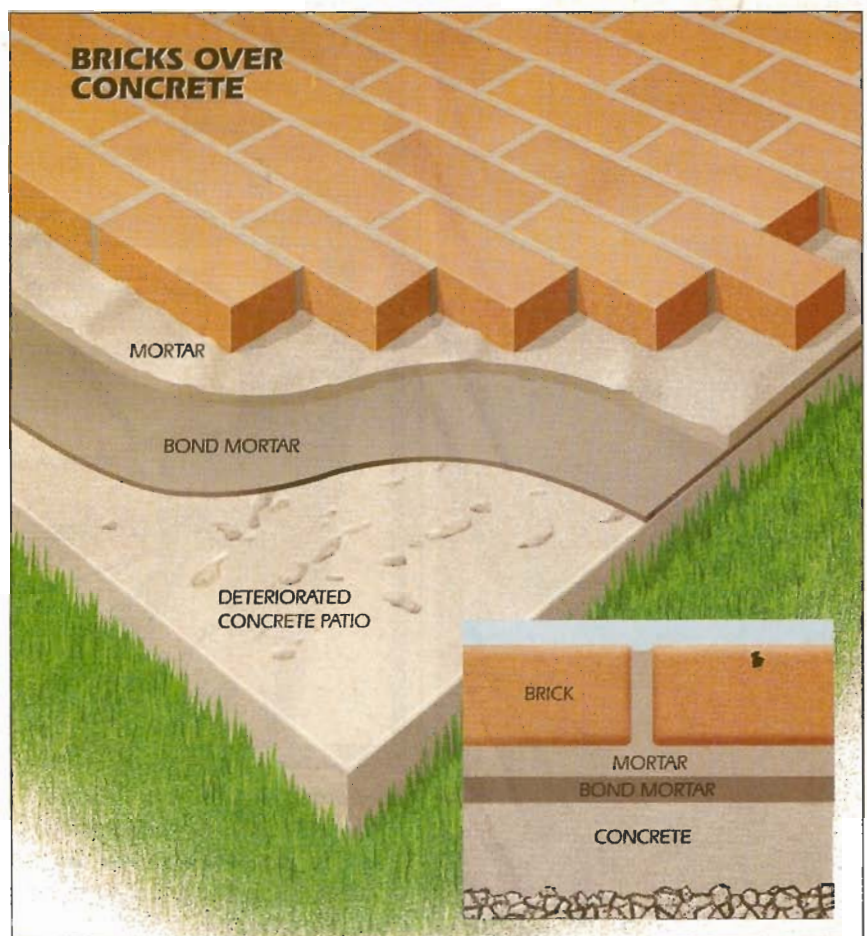
### Brick Pavement

My house is 15 years old and well built except for the concrete work. My patio is scaling off in areas. I also have a downstairs garage with an entrance and adjacent areas that look as if they are made of loose gravel. I would like to resurface both the patio and downstairs garage area with brick but do not know how to prepare the surfaces.

JACK MOODY  
VIA INTERNET

With brick as a paving material there are a number of items to consider in addition to the surface preparation of the base. Brick selection should be based on weather and abrasion resistance. Since most of the paved area will be exposed to the weather, you should select Class SX paving bricks because they are intended for use where the brick may be frozen while saturated with water. This will minimize deterioration due to cracking or spalling.

The concrete base that the bricks are placed on should be at least 4 in. thick. It should be power washed, then its cracks should be filled.

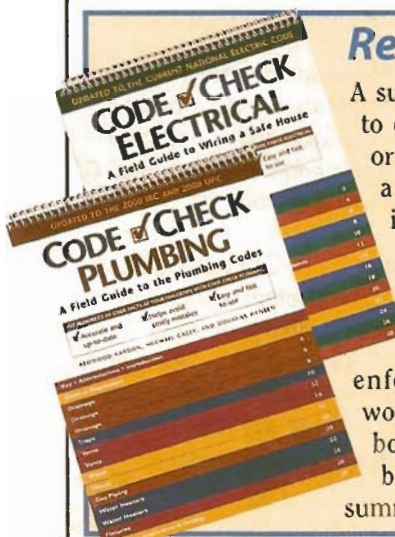


**A deteriorated concrete patio can be surfaced with paving brick. Mortar holds the bricks to each other, and a layer of bond mortar improves the bricks' adhesion.**

The bricks should be set in Type S mortar—for the ingredients of Type S mortar, visit the Brick Industries Association (BIA) Web site. The mortar also helps to level out any irregularities in the base. To improve the bond between the concrete slab and the mortar set-

ting bed, use a bond mortar consisting of portland cement mixed with water or a latex additive. The mixture should have a creamy consistency.

The spaces between the bricks can be filled with mortar, or the spaces between the bricks can be left open



## Review: Help With Building Codes

A surefire route to frustration is to embark on a major building or remodeling project without a working knowledge of building codes. Assuming that the project will be inspected, it's a given that you'll receive one correction notice after another from local code-enforcement authorities. It would be better to buy one or both of these field guides to building codes. They are a summary of the most commonly

violated codes. One guide deals with plumbing and the other with electrical systems. Both guides are spiral bound and flip open like a notebook. Each entry is given no more than one or two lines. For example, the following entry regarding plastic pipe is found in the plumbing guide: "ABS and PVC cannot be glued together." Both guides require general familiarity with construction, of course. Neither can function as a complete education in a building trade, but they do cover a tremendous amount of information and are very concise.

Each guide costs \$16.95 (plus \$4.98 postage for one guide, \$5.97 postage for two). Contact the Customer Service Dept., Taunton Press, 63 S. Main St., Newtown, CT 06470; 800-888-8286.

—Roy Berendsohn