



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
with Tim Goom

First Impressions Count!

The old adage 'don't judge a book by its cover' exists because it is very often exactly what we do! Your property frontage is the first impression visitors or passers-by have of your home, so it is worth investing in- and the driveway is a big component of this overall impression.

Is your driveway looking tired? Are there cracks and wrinkles from the earthquakes? Perhaps it's not damaged but the stamped coloured concrete is now looking a bit dated? A new driveway can do wonders to impact the overall look of your property, as it directly links your home to the neighbourhood and significantly increases its street appeal.

For most of us, earthquake repairs to our homes are completed. Now is the perfect time to refocus and move your driveway project off the back burner! Replacing your driveway is less complex and time consuming than a full garden redo and provides a fantastic opportunity to consider adding elements like lighting, a pedestrian gate, or automatic gates which will further enhance your home.

Materials

Smooth surfaces such as asphalt and concrete create a seamless driveway with crisp clean lines. Whilst careful preparation is required, the new surface will be ready for use relatively quickly. A significant advantage of concrete and asphalt is that they are very durable surfaces with minimal aftercare and maintenance requirements. Pavers are another option, and provided they are installed to a high standard, can be durable and low maintenance. Other options with more texture, such as loose stone chip or crushed gravel, are ready for use almost immediately. Loose stone chip will evoke a French feel which will work well with older character homes.

Additional features

- **Lighting** makes it easy for evening visitors to find you by highlighting your street number with lighting on your gate pillars. Guide these visitors to designated parking areas by installing lighting at the sides of your driveway.
- **Intercoms** help maintain privacy and security.



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- **Automatic gates** are a convenient feature provided they are set back far enough and allow you to pull off the road safely. Best to avoid having half your car sticking out on the road as a target for oncoming traffic while waiting for your gates to open!
- **Drive on sensors** can be used to open your gate or trigger lighting
- **Your letterbox** can be incorporated into the driveway design so that it contributes to the street appeal. Material and colours which tie in with your home or wider landscape will create a lovely consistent aesthetic.

Design

- Clever driveway design will create extra parking. Using thresholds and different surface materials help guide guests to the right carparks, avoiding vehicles being blocked in, in a real life game of Tetris. If your driveway is tight we can include proper turning circles that suit your vehicle and enhance manoeuvrability, avoiding the need for a ten-point turn!
- Differentiate between surfaces for pedestrians and vehicles by using contrasting materials to ensure safe entry and exit to your property. Consider a smooth product for the pathway to welcome and guide guests directly to your front door.
- Ensure planting in driveway beds are designed to frame your driveway without encroaching on your driveable space. You don't want sharp branches leaving their mark on the paintwork of your car.
- Incorporating inserts or strips of materials into your driveway which feature in your home exterior or wider landscape will create a cohesive design.

Call Goom Landscapes today to discuss how your property entrance can be enhanced to create a stunning first impression!

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