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**QUIKRETE® PROTECTS CONCRETE FROM WINTER DAMAGE**  
*Avoid Costly Repairs Caused by Cold Temperatures and Precipitation*

**ATLANTA (Oct. 3, 2012)** – According to the National Climatic Data Center, the average winter temperature in 25 U.S. states is below freezing and that can be very harmful to concrete surfaces left unprotected by homeowners. The repeated freezing and thawing that occurs due to changes in daytime and nighttime temperatures during the winter can cause concrete to crack and flake. The QUIKRETE® Companies, the leading manufacturer of packaged concrete products for the building and home improvement markets recommends homeowners repair and protect surfaces now to avoid costly projects in the spring.

“When rain, snow or ice migrates through cracks in concrete and saturates the substrate, the concrete will shift and move every time freezing and thawing occurs. This repeated movement can cause the cracks to expand or create new ones,” said Frank Owens, Vice President Marketing for The QUIKRETE® Companies. “Concrete also acts as a rigid sponge that if left unprotected becomes saturated from rain, snow and ice during the winter. When temperatures drop below freezing, the water saturating the concrete expands and can cause the surface to flake or spall. Fortunately, there are some simple projects, products and tips that can help homeowners prepare for these winter challenges.”

**Tips for repairing concrete cracks**

- Use a flexible polyurethane sealant like QUIKRETE® Polyurethane Concrete Crack Sealant that allows concrete to move and shift without damaging the repair
- Widen the existing crack to minimum of 1/4-inch with a hammer and chisel, and clean debris from the crack with a brush
- Fill the crack with QUIKRETE® Polyurethane Concrete Crack Sealant level to the surface using a standard caulk gun
- Consider this project how-to video at [www.quikrete.com/AtHome/Video-Sealing-Waterproofing-Cracks-in-Concrete.asp](http://www.quikrete.com/AtHome/Video-Sealing-Waterproofing-Cracks-in-Concrete.asp)

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**Tips for protecting concrete surfaces**

- Use a water-based acrylic sealer like QUIKRETE® Concrete Cure & Seal to waterproof and protect concrete surfaces from flaking or spalling
- Clean the surface with a pressure washer and/or cleaner like QUIKRETE® Concrete & Asphalt Cleaner to remove all dirt, grease, salts and other bond inhibitors
- Apply the sealer evenly on the surface using a garden sprayer, roller or brush – a second coat can be applied two hours after initial application

**Tips for resurfacing concrete surfaces**

- Transform old, worn concrete driveways, sidewalks and patios into new, durable surfaces with a resurfacer like QUIKRETE® Concrete Resurfacer
- Clean all the deteriorated concrete, dirt, grease, salts and other bond inhibitors from the surface with a 3,500 PSI pressure washer
- Mix the QUIKRETE® Concrete Resurfacer to a flowable consistency and evenly apply to the surface no thicker than 1/4-inch with a long-handled squeegee; a non-skid finish can be applied with a broom
- The resurfaced concrete can be walked on in six hours and driven on in 12 hours
- Consider this project how-to video at <http://www.quikrete.com/AtHome/Video-Resurfacing-Concrete-Slabs.asp>

More information on QUIKRETE® products and access to home improvement project how-to videos are available at [www.quikrete.com](http://www.quikrete.com), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

***The QUIKRETE® Companies***

The QUIKRETE® Companies is the largest manufacturer of packaged concrete and cement mixes in the United States and Canada, and an innovative leader in the commercial building and home improvement industries. QUIKRETE® products are manufactured and bagged in more than 90 manufacturing facilities in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and South America, allowing for unsurpassed distribution and product depth. The QUIKRETE® Technical Center ensures that professionals and consumers alike are provided with the most innovative and highest quality products available on the market. For additional information on The QUIKRETE® Companies or its products, please visit [www.quikrete.com](http://www.quikrete.com) or call (800) 282-5828.

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