

CHOOSING A PAVER CONTRACTOR

Asking a few simple questions can save headaches down the road with an interlocking paver installation.

BY BRIAN BURTON

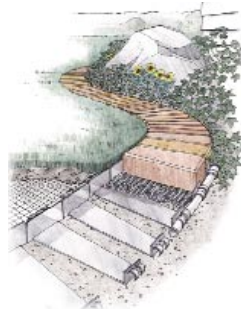
Interlocking concrete pavers create a beautiful and durable pavement that will last a minimum of 30 years when installed correctly. Other pavements such as asphalt, poured concrete or imprinted concrete have a considerably shorter service life.

According to Andy Savoie of Oaks Concrete Products, when choosing a contractor you should compare apples to apples. Get estimates from landscapers who specialize in concrete pavers. Look at the guarantees and then do your comparisons.

Get what you pave for...

Just reading a contractor's sales brochure isn't enough. In order to ensure a quality installation, you should ask questions like these of paver installation contractors:

- How long have they been installing



pavers?

- Do they have a portfolio to qualify them? Are they in good credit standing? Do they have liability insurance?

- Can they prove their Workers Compensation Insurance covers all workers?

- Will they provide a detailed written and itemized propos-

al outlining the scope of work and terms of payment?

- Do they guarantee their work for one year? Are they willing to agree to return in a year to inspect the installation and make any necessary repairs?

■ *Brian Burton recently completed a five-part history of roads, streets and pavements that details the changes in road technology and construction over the past 5,000 years. Interested readers can access these articles at www.bba.on.ca.*