

# TECHNICAL BULLETIN

HARDSCAPES DONE RIGHT

## It's Just Sand, Or Is It?

TB15

Joint Sand in a segmental pavement installation is a necessary component to aid in the interlocking system, transferring the load from unit to unit and it provides a cushion between them. Not all sand is created equal. There is only one type when installed properly that will produce the desired end results. For hardscaping success, you will want to make sure the polymeric sand or joint sand you are using contains this type of sand.

**First, let's explore some sand types that won't do the job as well.**

A common type of sand that is used in segmental systems in some parts of the country is silica sand which is made up of fine rounded particles that are all about the same size. There is no structure to this type of sand and can be easily dislodged from the joints when under pressure. This results in a weak joint that is vulnerable to sand wash out, weed growth, insect infestation and potential tracking into pools and buildings.

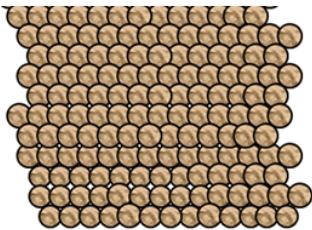
Another type of sand often used is play sand which is very coarse, round in shape and tends to be dirty. This sand lacks a natural beauty in the joints and can be difficult to install and stabilize due to its inconsistency.

**There is one type of joint sand ideal for segmental pavement systems.**

The ideal joint sand for segmental pavement systems will meet the ASTM C 144 standard. This is a specific gradation of fractured angular sand particles of different sizes. The sand will create the structure in the joint which will start to interlock the system together. When using a joint stabilizing sealer, ASTM C 144 gradation performs best because the sealer is able to fill the gaps between the sand particles (without flowing through) and bond them together creating a solid joint.

### Silica Sand

- Fine Particles
- Round In Shape
- Easily Dislodged



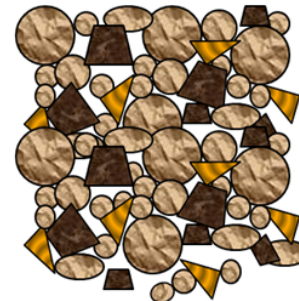
### Play Sand

- Very Coarse
- Round In Shape
- Tends To Be Dirty



### ASTM C144

- Fractured & Angular
- Different Size Particles
- Ideal for Pavers



**PolySweep Polymeric Sand & SEK Joint Sand are made with ASTM C144 joint sand.**