

From Blank Slate to Backyard Benchmark

Factory-sealed Concrete Pavers Transform Upper Midwest Property into High-performing, Cover-worthy Outdoor Living Space



Pavers Last Twice As Long With Help of Optimized Paver Technology

County Materials Corporation is a leading manufacturer and industry resource for concrete construction and landscape products that include pavers, wall systems, caps, coping, steps, and fire features. Their pavers manufactured with Sentinel Sealed Technology™, like those used by Earthworks for the Carberry project, are engineered using Optimized Paver Technology (OPT), a penetrating primer and sealer that is specially formulated by ACM Chemistries. OPT is designed for machine-made concrete products and is applied during the manufacturing process using simple drop-in equipment. The multi-step approach produces maximum paver protection that lasts up to twice as long as field-applied sealers.

To learn more about County Materials' pavers manufactured with Sentinel Sealed Technology, visit hub.countymaterials.com or watch their videos "Sealed Right from the Start" and "Sentinel Seal Technology - Seal to Withstand Life's Challenges."

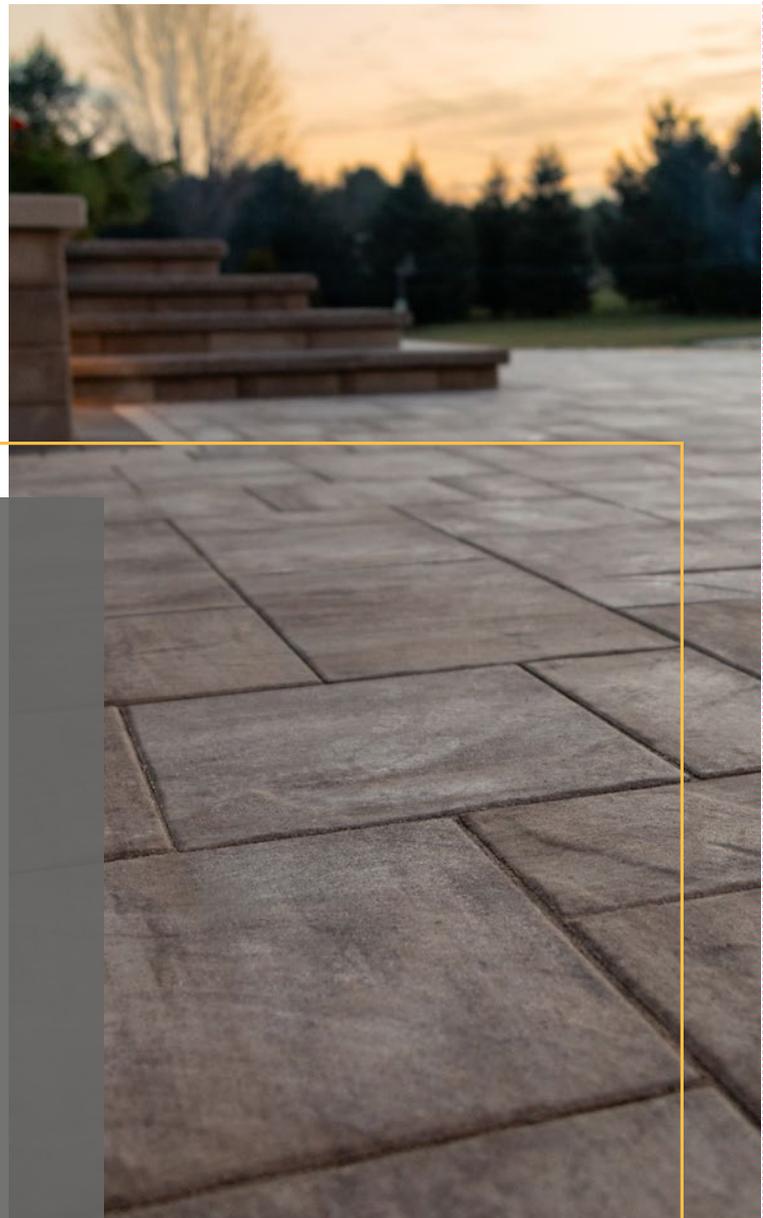
"Our products are designed for sustainability, long-term value, and reducing maintenance costs over time," said County Materials' Trevor Bear. "With Sentinel Sealed Technology, we're setting the standard in durability and surface defense."

Benefits Beyond Durability

In addition to longer seal life, pavers manufactured with OPT offer many other aesthetic and performance benefits, including:

- UV protection against fading
- Deeper, richer colors
- Ultra-smooth paver finish
- Maximum stain resistance
- Barefoot-friendly, slip-resistant surface
- Reduced efflorescence and poly-haze
- Protection against deicing salts

To learn more about ACM Chemistries' Optimized Paver Technology, visit www.acmchem.com/optimized-paver-technology



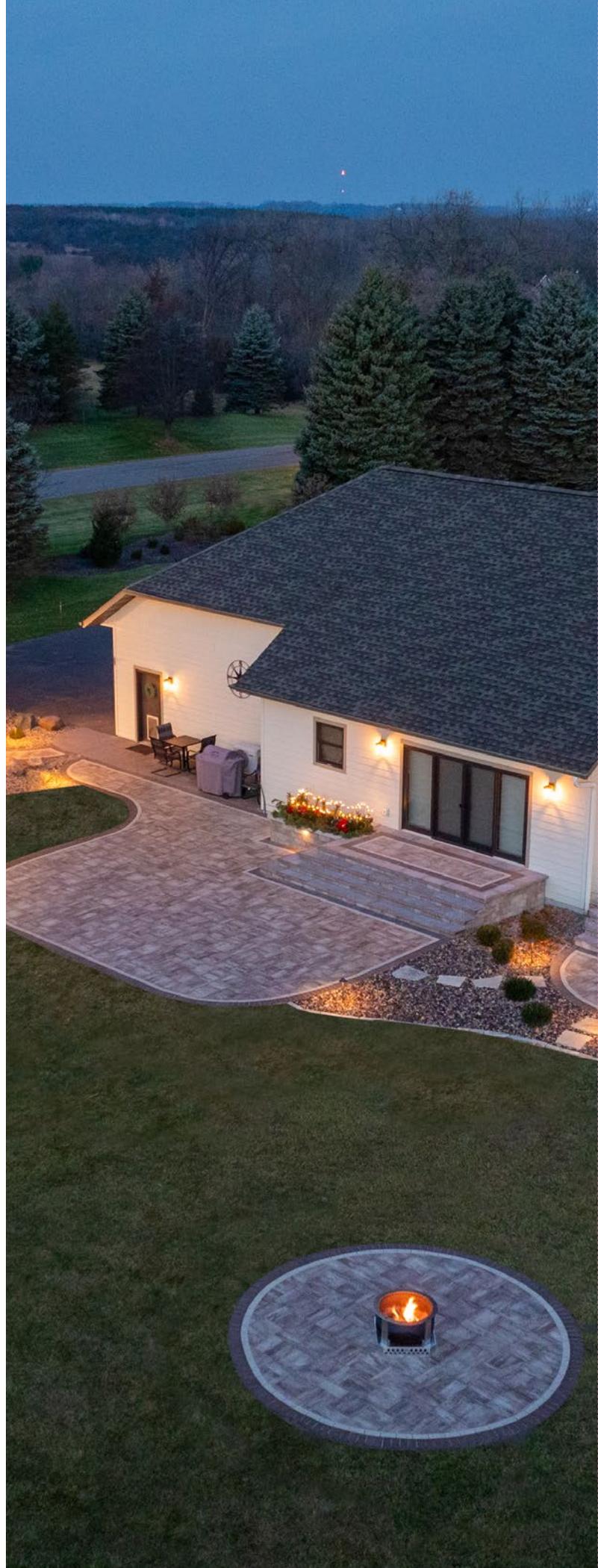
When Joel and Kris Carberry stood in their backyard looking at the big green blank slate, they knew one thing for certain: building a deck was definitely not the answer to their family's outdoor living dream.

The Carberrys' 3,500-square-foot home in River Falls, Wisconsin, is situated at the center of a generous four-acre lot, with approximately two acres comprising the backyard. The area is accessible from two sliding glass doors in the home: one in the main living section and one in a bedroom. The Carberrys felt adding a deck outside those doors would have made the form and function of the space choppy and impractical.

"We had seen enough of decks," explained Joel Carberry. "We didn't want all that railing breaking up the flow. We wanted a more open design that wasn't restricted by rails, and we didn't want to deal with the burden of upkeep."

What the Carberrys' backyard vision did involve: It had to be attractive. It had to be durable enough to withstand the harsh upper midwestern climate. And it had to be low-maintenance. They called on hometown contractor Nick Caliva, president of Earthworks Landscape Architects & Contractors, Inc., to create an outdoor living area that would meet all of their needs. Caliva and his team designed and installed a multi-patio layout using factory-sealed concrete pavers from County Materials as the centerpiece of the design palette.

County Materials' pavers are manufactured with Sentinel Sealed Technology™ to deliver an aesthetic of earthy colors and organic patterns that are uniquely engineered using



DESIGN DETAILS

All hardscape products supplied by County Materials.

Hardscaping scope:

3 patios, 1,450 sf

Patios:

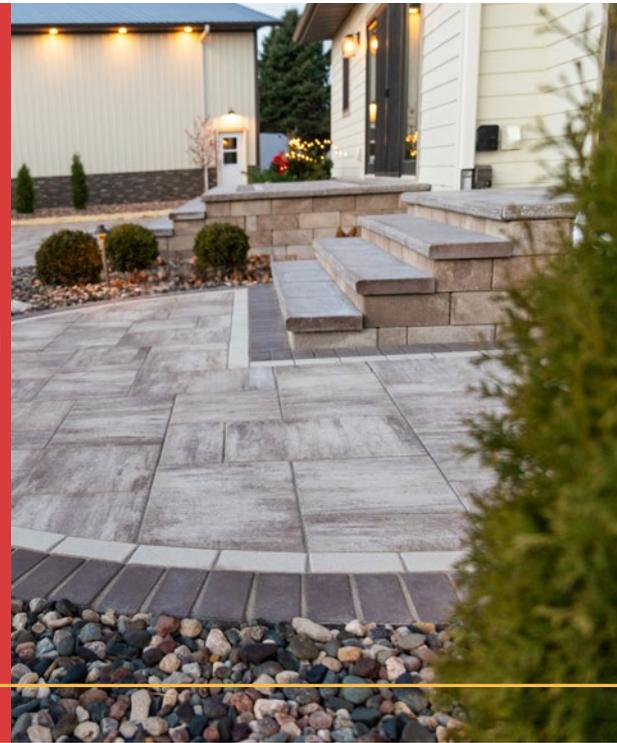
Seating areas - TRANQUILITY PAVERS® with Sentinel Sealed Technology™, **Color:** Enlighten

Borders - ELEMENTS™ PAVERS with Sentinel Sealed Technology™, **Colors:** Vision and Beckon

Walls & Steps:

Smooth Tribute® Wall Systems, **Color:** Enlighten

Prestige™ Coping Pavers, **Color:** Quiet Beach



Optimized Paver Technology (OPT) from ACM Chemistries. Crafted with a hybrid paver manufacturing system that bonds two protective layers to the paver surface, this factory-applied penetrating primer and sealer process eliminates the need for on-site sealing. The result is a highly durable, weather-resistant paver with a look that has homeowners like the Carberrys spending a lot more time outside.

Designing for Durability

Sitting on the western edge of Wisconsin's Great Lakes region, River Falls has a climate with freeze-thaw cycles, high moisture, UV exposure, and snow loads that can be especially tough on hardscape materials. As a leading design-build outdoor landscape and hardscape contractor in the region, Earthworks focuses on long-term

performance and durability as much as aesthetics when selecting its materials.

"We design and install premium outdoor living environments, not one-off patios," noted Caliva. "Our craftsmanship is exceptional because we invest heavily in equipment, training, and installation standards, and our clients trust us to choose the right materials. We don't upsell. We specify what performs."

Caliva said Earthworks has been purchasing concrete pavers and other hardscape products from County Materials for over 20 years and has grown alongside their product evolution. Caliva and his team first learned about Sentinel Sealed Technology through County Materials' focus groups and collaborative discussions. As a long-term partner of the manufacturer, Earthworks provided feedback on product quality and performance.

“The concept of a controlled, factory-applied paver sealant that improves protection and longevity immediately made sense to us as professionals who understand the importance of surface integrity over time,” said Caliva. “Our high-end residential design-build projects are outdoor living spaces that integrate multiple features such as patios, pool decks, fire features, outdoor kitchens, retaining walls, and custom planting designs. For projects at this level, quality and longevity are non-negotiable, and that makes the Sentinel Sealed Technology pavers the right fit every time.”

Earthworks specifies County Materials’ pavers with Sentinel Sealed Technology as a standard, not an add-on. Caliva explained that when comparing sealed pavers versus unsealed options, the unsealed savings only amount to a few dollars per square foot—not enough to justify compromising the protection, appearance, and long-term durability that come with factory sealing.

County Materials’ pavers manufactured with Sentinel Sealed Technology integrate a penetrating primer and sealer directly into the paver during the manufacturing process, not after installation, ensuring long-lasting protection is built in from the start. Protection does not wash off or wear off under foot traffic. The primer and sealer not only enhance paver color, but also protect the surface from fading, stains, chemical damage, and weather. In addition, it offers unmatched performance and reduced maintenance

with protection for up to twice as long as field-applied sealers.

For Earthworks’ design team, Sentinel Sealed Technology provides confidence that the pavers will maintain their long-term color and appearance. For installation crews, County Materials’ industry-leading technology makes it easier to deliver a pristine appearance with minimal post-installation cleanup. The elimination of on-site sealing saves time while ensuring a uniform, high-quality finish right off the pallet—setting apart pavers manufactured with Sentinel Sealed Technology as the superior choice on the market. And for homeowners like Joel and Kris Carberry, the benefits are in the pavers’ lasting color and low maintenance.

“The pavers delivered durability right from the start without the installers having to seal them on site and without me having to maintain the finish over time,” said Joel Carberry.

PROJECT PLAYERS

Project Type:

Residential

Location:

River Falls, WI

Homeowners:

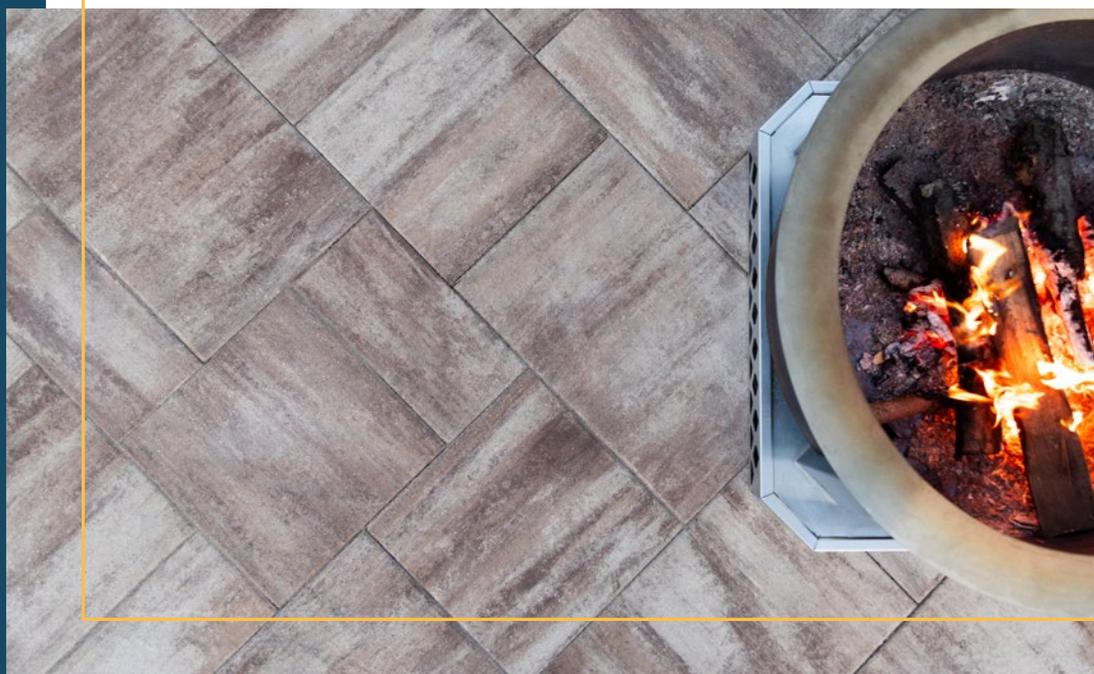
Joel & Kris Carberry

Landscape Designer/Installer:

Earthworks Landscape Architects & Contractors, Inc.
River Falls, WI
earthworkslandscaping.com

Paver Manufacturer:

County Materials Corporation
Oak Creek, WI
hub.countymaterials.com



A Picture-Perfect Patio Trio

For the Carberrys' project, the Earthworks team designed and built three distinct yet harmonized outdoor living spaces. The first and largest patio begins at the home's main rear sliding door and features a rectangular elevated level with a three-step descent down onto a generous seating area that showcases the pavers. A second smaller patio starts at the bedroom sliding door and is outlined by a multi-colored stone border. Its rectangular upper level and three steps mirror those on the main patio, creating visual cohesion between the two spaces, while the stone border and framing shrubbery clearly indicate the cottage-inspired patio as a more intimate space designed for two.

Set apart a few yards from the conjoined patios is a third circular patio that features an inviting fire pit with room enough for friends to gather on a cold Wisconsin night. Altogether, the project contains roughly 1,450 square feet of hardscape area.

"The Carberrys' project started as a basic landscaping scope and expanded into a complete hardscape build," recalled Caliva. "It's a great showcase of our full outdoor living design-build process balancing structure, aesthetics, and durability."

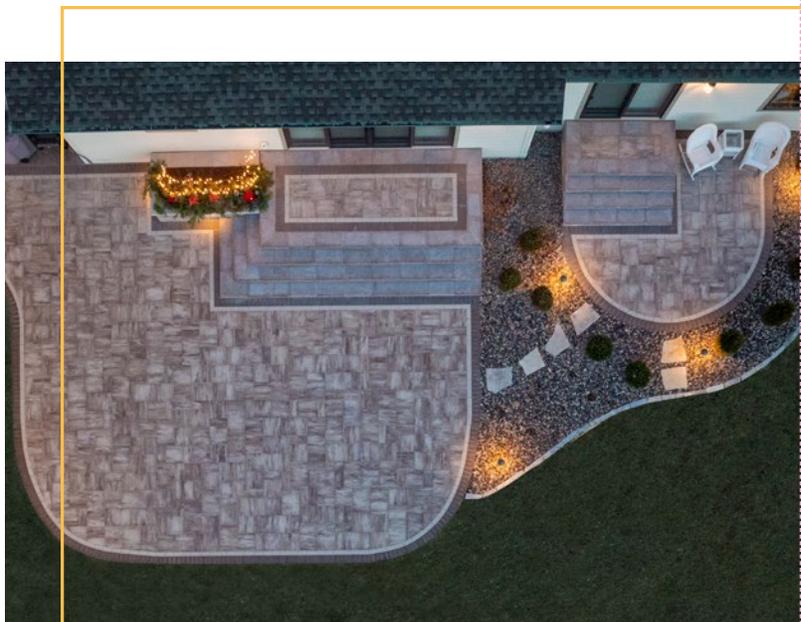
Caliva said the project was constructed on Earthworks' hybrid open-graded base with geogrid reinforcement for long-term stability. Surrounding landscapes tie it all together with planting beds, shed-area grading, and low-voltage lighting for wayfinding and evening enjoyment.

Early on, the Carberrys had considered stamped concrete, but the property had an existing concrete area that needed to be integrated into the patio project, and they felt stamped concrete would not be able to make it come together. Instead, Earthworks recommended a combination of County Materials'

Grand TRANQUILITY PAVERS® and ELEMENTS™ PAVERS with Sentinel Sealed Technology in the colors Enlighten, Vision, and Beckon to complement the existing concrete and tie in the colors of the home.

Shortly after the project's completion, temperatures started dropping in River Falls, but the Carberrys were still planning to spend time out on the patio.

"The only thing we hear from friends and neighbors is 'stunning' and that it looks like the cover of a magazine," said Joel. "We are outdoor people, and we'll be on the patio whenever we get a beautiful day."



ABOUT ACM CHEMISTRIES

ACM Chemistries is known throughout North America as a dependable partner in the manufacture of admixture and paver surface treatments for manufactured concrete products. ACM is based in Atlanta, GA, with satellite operations on the West Coast and Canada.

For more information on OPT, please visit www.acmchem.com/optimized-paver-technology

