



HOW TO...LAY PAVERS

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1. PLANNING

- Understand the exact dimensions of the paving required.
- Using string or chalk, mark out the area to be paved, then transfer the dimensions to your plan. Also make note of storm water drainage and electrical work that may need to run underneath your paved area, ensuring these go onto your plan as well.
- *Calculating the paving area:*
 - simply multiply the length of the project by its width. Break down irregular shapes into smaller regular shapes, calculating the area for each and adding together for total area to be paved.
 - Length x Width = Area

2. ESTIMATING MATERIALS YOU NEED

- A solid foundation is very important for paving. A base layer of road base should be laid across the whole area, to a total depth of between:
 - 10 – 15 centimetres for driveways
 - 5 – 8 centimetres for pathways
- *Calculating required road base:*
 - For every 10 square metres compacted to a depth of 5 centimetres, 0.6 metres will be required.
- The next layer consists of a 4cm deep layer of washed coarse bedding sand.
 - For every 10 square metres you will need 0.5 cubic metres.
- Finally, fine washed jointing sand is swept into the pavers. For an area of approximately between 20 – 30 square metres, a 20kg bag will be required.

3. PREPARING THE AREA

- Mark the paving area with 4 stakes and run string lines between them. Height of string should be set at height of pavers when the job is finished.
- Use a string line level or spirit level to level strings
- Area of paving should slope away from buildings to ensure any water will drain away.
- Finished paver height must be below damp proof course.
- Excavate ground to required depth. (The thickness of the paver plus 4cm of bedding sand plus depth of the road base) Make the ground as even as possible.

4. BASE LAYER AND BEDDING SAND

- Spread and compact the road base layer remembering to compact in 5cm depths to ensure even compaction. Check the evenness and depth of base by measuring from the string line.

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- Place screeding rails in position and spread the moist bedding sand to a depth of 4cm. Pull the screeding board over the rails to obtain a level surface. Remove the rails and fill in the ruts left by the rails in the sand.
- Move rails to next section.

5. LAYING THE PAVERS

- To determine average width of the pavers, place 20 tightly side by side, and measure overall width. Divide total by 20 and add 3mm to this average paver width to allow for gaps.
- Set up string line where the first paver is to be laid, measure along the string line the distance you'll be paving using the average width plus 3mm (gap) and establish two reference pavers.
- Or, alternatively, space out a grid of string lines based on the final dimension (average paver width + 3mm) for say, 20 paver intervals.
- Lay pavers in your preferred pattern allowing 3mm gaps between each. Don't allow pavers to touch as this may lead to chipping.

6. EDGING

- Essential to prevent movement of the pavers and sand.
- These restraints should be approximately 10mm below the uncompacted pavers to allow for final compaction.
- They can be made of treated timber or concrete.

7. COMPACTING AND JOINING

- On completion of paving and edging, sweep fine dry joint fill sand over entire area, ensuring all gaps are filled.
 - For smaller jobs, compact pavers using a rubber mallet and a hardwood plank.
 - For larger jobs you may require a vibrating plate compactor. (available from equipment hire companies)
- Protect pavers from scratching and chipping by using plywood sheet, old carpet or matting during compacting process.
- Paving should compact about 10mm. Top up joints with fill sand if required after compaction. Lightly spray with hose to help completely fill the joints.

MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED

- Pavers
- Road Base
- Bedding sand
- Fine washed sand for kointing
- Cement and sand for edging
- Rake
- Shovel
- String Line
- Stakes
- Tape measure
- Line level or spirit level
- Paver cutters such as brick saw (hired) or bolster
- Rubber mallet
- Wheelbarrow
- Compactor (either hire a vibrating plate compactor or timber and rubber mallet)
- A piece of old carpet, matting or plywood sheeting for use when compacting
- Timber screeding rails 3 metres long and 3 to 4 cm thick
- Flat straight 3 metre length of screeding board or aluminium screed

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