

Paver Installation

SUPPLIES

- Edge Restraints
- Gardener's Rake
- Shovel
- Gloves
- Safety Glasses
- Wheelbarrow
- Carpenter's Level
- 1" x 6" x 8' Plank
- String/Twine
- Tape Measure
- Heavy Hammer
- Screwdriver
- Masonry Saw
- Plate Compactor
- Stakes
- Broom
- Screed Guides
- Granular "A" Crushed Stone

BASE THICKNESS CHART* (GENERAL)

APPLICATION	GRAVEL BASE	BEDDING COURSE
Patios, Walkways, Pool Decks	4" - 6"	1"-1.5 "
Driveways	6"-12"	1"-1.5 "
Steps, Planters, Raised Patios	6"	0-1/8 "

***Soil Conditions** - When working in areas where there are poor soil conditions (e.g. heavy clay, disturbed soils) there is potential for deformation or settlement. Increase the depth of the base to provide more stability. Remove any loose or disturbed soils.

Step 1

BASE PREPARATION



Begin by marking out the area to be excavated. Excavating removes loose top soil or fill and allows for the placement of a compacted gravel base. Always excavate the area slightly wider to allow extra room.



In clay soils we strongly recommend using a geotextile material to keep soil and gravel apart. This will provide improved drainage and yield greater, long term stability.

Fill the area with the correct amount of gravel (see "Base Thickness Chart"). Grade your base material as closely as possible to the final contour of your patio, walkway or driveway surface. Remember to slope all installations away from the house for proper drainage.

Step 2

COMPACTING THE GRAVEL BASE



The base preparation is the most important part of the entire installation process. Appropriate base material, thickness, and compaction are essential to ensure your installation will last a lifetime. Use either a hand tamper or plate compactor and firmly compact the gravel base material. For best compaction, compact in 4" layers.

Step 3

SCREEDING



Pavers are laid on a bed of coarse sand. This bed should be 1" to 1-1/2" thick, no more, and is placed directly on top of the compacted base material. Using screed guides (1" to 1-1/2" in diameter) placed on the base, level the sand evenly by pulling a straight board along the guides. Once you've completed an area, remove the guides, fill in the grooves, and continue screeding.

Step 4

LAYING & CUTTING THE PAVERS



Begin placing the pavers directly on the screeded bed of sand. Start laying along the longest straight side of the area to keep lines straight. This will minimize the amount of cutting required. It is important that the lines of your pavers are square, 90° to each other, to fit properly.



If you are installing circles, fans, or a soldier course (a border of pavers around the perimeter of the area) you will want to place these first before installing the rest of the pattern.



You may need to cut pavers that don't fit along edges or around objects. Mark the pavers and cut with either a guillotine cutter or masonry saw.



A guillotine cutter is the easiest method of cutting but for an exact cut, a masonry saw works best.



Tip

Edge restraints are a critical element to the durability of a paver installation. They prevent the pavers from moving and shifting over time. If you are using PVC edge restraint or similar, it should be installed after all pavers are in place.

Step 5

INSTALLING EDGE RESTRAINTS



It is important that the edging be installed on the compacted gravel base, not on the screeded sand layer. Carefully remove sand from edge of pavers. Place plastic edging against pavers and spike into the ground at approximately 1 foot intervals. (Holes are predrilled in edging.) Use 10" non-galvanized common spikes. These spikes will corrode and become locked into soil.

Step 6

COMPACTING THE PAVERS



After the installation is complete, including edge restraints, the pavers must be swept clean and then compacted with a plate compactor. This helps settle the pavers into the bedding sand and creates a smooth, flat surface.

Step 7

POLYMERIC SAND



Sweeping Polymeric Sand into the joints of the pavers further locks the pavers together. Continue to run the plate compactor over the pavers adding sand and compacting until the joints are full. This will help the sand settle deep into the joints. Please follow manufacturer's instructions for setting Polymeric Sand.