

How to Lay Pavers

Before you Start Checklist

1. Check with your council

Pavers can usually be laid around your house without council approval. However, if you're doing a driveway or working in an area where water runoff is an issue, you may need to contact your local council. Some of the newer residential communities have covenants covering the use of driveway material. If so get authorization before proceeding.

2. Check you have all the right equipment

- Garden Gloves
- Wheelbarrow
- Spade
- Rubber Mallet
- Road Base
- Course sand

To lay courtyard or pathway areas you will also need:

- Fine Sand – or Jointing sand
- Ear Muff
- Spirit Level
- String Line
- Cement
- Whacker Packer
- Brick saw
- Straight Edge
- Broom
- Small trowel

3. Work how many pavers you will need

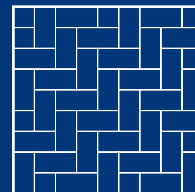
- Grab a pencil, paper and tape measure. Measure the length and the width of the area to be paved. Then multiply one by the other to determine the total area in square metres. Make an appropriate allowance for curved edges and or cuts.
- Multiply the number of required per m2 by the area to be covered to determine total number of pavers required. Allow an extra 2% just in case.

4. IMPORTANT SAFETY

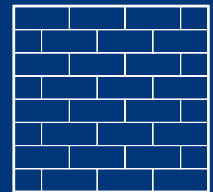
- **Always wear eye protection when you're splitting or cutting an Adbri Masonry paver. Wear eye protection when you are using a whacker.**
- **Bend your knees when lifting heavy pavers**
- **Wear work boots to protect your feet & gardening gloves to protect your hands.**
- **Slip, slop, slap if you are working in the sun & keep your fluids up.**



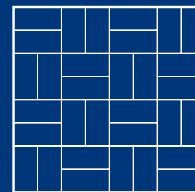
Paving Patterns



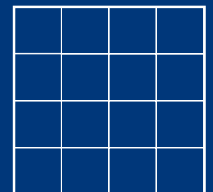
Herringbone



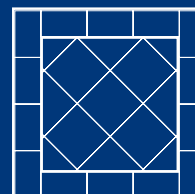
Stretcher Bond



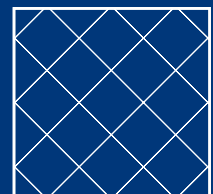
Basketweave



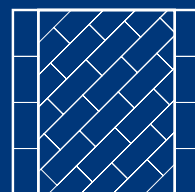
Stackbond



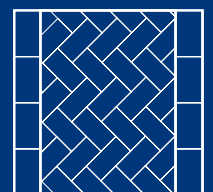
Diamond with flat header course



Diamond



45° Stretcher Bond with flat header board



45° Herringbone with flat header board

1. Clear your site



Mark out the area to be paved. Dig out the existing lawn and loose earth to the depth of around 150mm below the required finished height of your pavers. Remove all plant matter including roots, as any vegetation you leave in the ground will break down and cause you're paving to sink in the near future. Scrape the bottom of your work area flat with your shovel.

Handy Tip: Dig and shovel straight into your wheelbarrow. No point double handling.

2. Lay a foundation



Tip in your foundation material(s) to the minimum required depth. Fire up the whacker packer and compact 2 -3 times until you have a nice firm surface.

Handy Tip: Use ear muffs when you use a whacker packer

3. Add your bedding type



The most common bedding type used for paving is washed coarse sand. A minimum 25mm layer on top of your foundation should do the trick. Tip in the sand and rake it around until you have an even level of distribution of sand.

4. Bedding sand, screed smooth



Working from the far end, screen your sand smooth with a long straight float. Timber edge rail half a paver depth below the existing ground level might help here. Use a spirit level to make sure your compacted sand slopes away from your house and towards your lawn or garden for rainwater run off.

Handy Tip: You can't be too smooth. Make sure your sand bed is nice and flat before you lay any pavers.

5. Start paving



Set up a string line and carefully place your first row of pavers in position. Make sure your line is dead straight. Space your pavers a few millimeters apart using the blade of a trowel to get a consistent gap.

Handy Tip: Keep close to the ground (not arched over) when laying pavers to protect your back.

6. Cut corners



If you're paving out into an area bound by grass (or a garden bed) you might get away without needing to cut pavers. But if you want to inlay a pattern, do a curved edge or fit your paving snugly around things like down pipes, its time to go to your local hire place and get yourself a brick saw. While you are there ask about the correct procedures for cutting concrete pavers.

Handy Tip: Choosing the right sized paver for certain jobs can eliminate the need to get a brick saw.

7. Set square



With the first line of pavers laid, its time to head off in a different direction. Grab a big angle square to set a course at exact 90 degrees to the first row and off you go. As you work forward, use a rubber mallet to tap your pavers down for a nice flush surface.

Handy Tip: Do not walk on your screed sand.

8. Edging



Unless your pavers are being laid up against a wall they should be secured at every edge with pre mixed concrete (add water only). The finished edge of your paved area should be raised a little bit above any surrounding lawn.

Handy Tip: For a neat job, trowel the excess concrete up against the paver at a 45 degree angle.

9. Sweep in the sand



This is the easy bit. With all your pavers now in position, it is time to tip a load of fine sand or jointing sand on top and sweep into all the little crevices.

Handy Tip: For ease of filling the joints, the joint filling sand and pavement surface should be dry.

10. Pack it in



Drag the whacker plate on the paved area and begin compacting the pavers. Once or twice will do the job. If you have returned the compactor to the hire yard, don't panic a piece of solid timber used in conjunction with a rubber mallet will do the job.

Handy Tip: An old piece of carpet under the compacting plate will avoid chipping any pavers.

11. Seal your pavers

It is NOT compulsory to seal your pavers; however doing so will assist in reducing the chance of permanent staining.

It will also improve the aesthetic appeal to the finished pavement. Speak to your distributor for an appropriate sealer for your project.