

Basic guide to laying pavers

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Prepare the site

Excavate the area to be paved to allow for the base layer (generally 100 -150mm thick of road base), bedding Sand (generally 30mm thick coarse washed river Sand) and the paver thickness. Establish falls and level using a spirit level on the screed board. Spread the road base to an even thickness and compact using a mechanical plate compactor.



Add the bedding Sand

Place screed rails on road base and spread bedding Sand roughly between and over the rails – keep the rails. The easiest way to screed Sand is to use two guides (screed rails) and a screeding board (e.g. a flat piece of timber). Establish bedding tracks with the screeding board.



Level the surface

Bed the screed rails into the bedding Sand. Drag the screeding board in a sawing motion from side to side across the rails to create a firm, flat laying surface. Remove the rails, fill in the voids with bedding Sand and trowel smooth.



Set the lines

Set string lines at right angles to establish paving lines. These will help keep the joints straight for that truly professional look.



Begin the laying

Start laying along the longest straight edge of the designated area and lay whole pavers first. Leave 3-5mm between pavers to allow for jointing Sand (unless the pavers have nibs).



Cut pavers

Cut and position part-pavers if the job requires them. Edge restraints prevent the pavers from moving.



Fill the joints

Sweep jointing Sand over the finished dry paving, ensuring that all joints are full.

Sand filled joints:

Pavers 50mm thick or greater surface to be plate compacted. Always remember to use a rubber mat or carpet beneath the plate compactor to prevent damage to the pavers. Pavers 40mm thick or less – surface to be hand compacted with a rubber mallet.

Caring for your pavers - prevention is better than cure

- Sweep regularly with a stiff bristled broom to keep pavers free from debris.
- For maximum protection we suggest pavers are sealed after installation with a penetrating sealer. Please check with a reputable sealing company for advice.
- Seal pavers with a penetrating sealer before grouting to avoid grout smears.
- Re-seal pavers as required paying extra attention to heavy wear areas and salt-water locations.
- During construction, cover the paved areas to protect against damage.
- Protect your pavers against possible staining from mortar, oxides, cement and rust.
- Do not use acid to clean pavers.
- Do not use high pressure cleaning apparatus to clean pavers.
- In all cases, attempt to clean a stain before it hardens or dries.

If a stain occurs, follow some simple steps:

- Assess type of stain carefully before taking action (incorrect assessment of stain can cause the stain to be more difficult to remove).
- If stain cannot be accurately assessed, conduct a trial process on a small portion of stained area to determine most appropriate action.
- Do not use acid to remove stains under any circumstances. Refer to the guide beside for some stain removal solutions.

Finishing touches

Sealing

National Masonry recommends that all pavers should be sealed with a quality penetrating sealer following installation. Please check with a qualified tradesperson for advice on this process. National Masonry does not accept liability for stained or damaged pavers.

** For Millstone pavers, National Masonry recommend a semi-penetrating sealing to aid gap sand adhesion.

This is general information and should be viewed as a guide only. National Masonry recommends you obtain professional building advice on your specific paving project.

PROBLEM	SUGGESTED CLEANING METHOD
Efflorescence* (White powdery deposit)	Use Environex Anti-EFF or equivalent as per manufacturers recommendation.
Leaves, bark, algae, food and wine stains	Use 10 part water to 1 part bleach, then wash [^] down.
Chewing gum	Freeze with dry ice and remove with a spatula.
Ivy suckers	Apply a heat gun to the suckers until they go hard. Allow them to cool and dry, then scrub them off with a stiff bristled broom.

* Efflorescence occurs naturally in cement based products.

[^] Subject to water restrictions in your area.