

# 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.

## Finishing touches

## 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.

## 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 <sup>^</sup> 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.

<sup>^</sup> Subject to water restrictions in your area.