

This guide has been written to offer an easy step by step process on laying pavers, helping to achieve excellent results that you will be proud of. However, if you are unable to do this yourself, feel free to ask us and we can recommend many different professionals that will be happy to give you a hand with your project.

Step 1: Choosing the pavers and the areas to be paved

Pavers can be used in all areas around your home; driveways, paths, steps, verandah and pergolas. Come in to our store to see our paver display. We have such a wide variety of pavers, different sizes, colours, shapes and textures.



Step 2: Calculating area of paving

Most area are one of three options, or a combination. These are rectangle (including square), triangles and circles.

The area of a rectangle/ square = Length x Width.

For example: and area 15m long and 5m wide = $15 \times 5 = 75\text{m}^2$

The area of a triangle is half the width of the base x height.

For example: a triangle with a base 20m wide and a height of 8m = $10 \times 8 = 80\text{m}^2$

The area of a circle = $\pi (3.14) \times R(\text{radius})^2$, multiply the radius (from the centre of the circle to the side) by itself and multiply that by 3.14.

For example: a circle with the radius of 5m = $5 \times 5 \times 3.14 = 78.5\text{m}^2$

IMPORTANT: ensure you are extra careful measuring your area.



Step 3: How much material and what tools will you need

Materials:

Road base area: you will need to lay the road base 100mm thick. Use our helpful calculator to help work out how much you will need. Or you can multiply 0.1 by the m^2 that you need to give you m^3 , then multiply your m^3 by 1.6 to find out how much you need in ton.

For example: the area that you need paved is 50m^2 , to work out how many tons you need: $50 \times 0.1 \times 1.6 = 8$ ton.

Bedding sand area: you will need the bedding sand to be 50mm thick. Use our helpful calculator to help work out how much you will need. Or you can multiply 0.05 by the m^2 that you need to give you m^3 , then multiply your m^3 by 1.6 to find out how much you need in ton.



Tools:

- 2 screed rails 40mm x 25mm x 3m long
- Screed Board (hire)
- Spirit level
- Rubber mullet
- Piece of timber 100mm x 75mm x 500mm
- Strong line level
- Broom
- Club hammer
- Cutting equipment- brick bolster/ paver splitter/ masonry saw
- Plate vibrator/ compactor
- String line and 8 pegs
- Edge restraint either concrete or timber.
- Wheel barrow
- Shovel
- Rake
- Wooden float

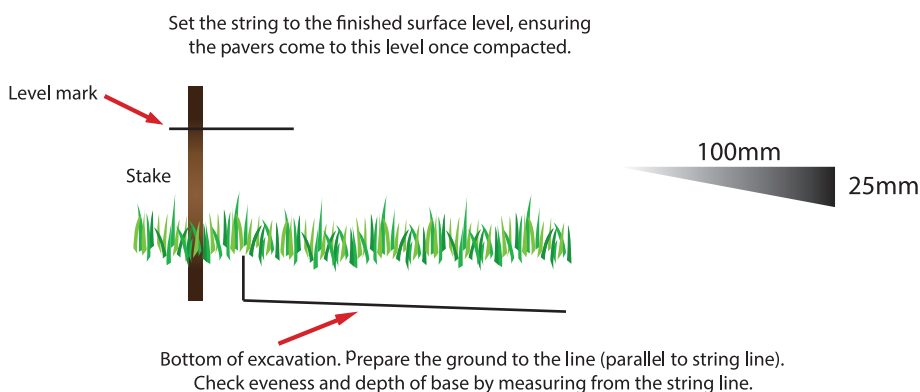
Step 4: Site preparation

The time spent on preparing the site will be well rewarded in the long run, your paving will only be as good as its foundation. It is important that the base is firm. Hollow and low areas must be filled and compacted using a plate compactor. Excavate the area to be paved to a depth of the paver plus approx. 30mm to 50mm for bedding sand. Make sure you allow a fall for draining. Set all string lines first to establish a level starting point, and then adjust for drainage falls as shown below. It is a good idea to get a bobcat in to prepare the area for you especially if its for a large area such as a drive way or pergola.

Slope paving away from house and allow for final paving surfaces to be below any damp-proof course.

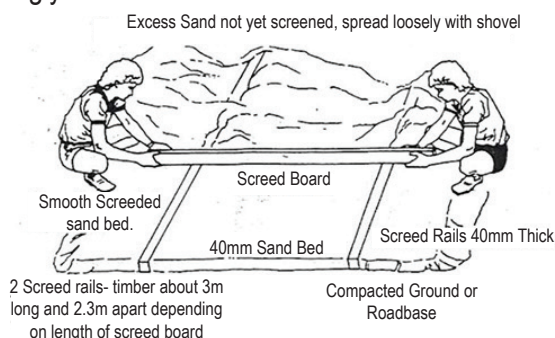


Plate Compactor



Step 5: Spread bedding sand

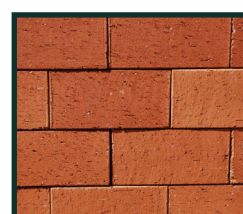
Place bedding sand and spread evenly over area to be paved to a depth of 50mm allowing 8mm for settlement on compaction. Spread with a rake and level with screed board. Set string lines to desired levels and set screed rails accordingly.



Step 6: Laying the pavers

Work to the pattern you have chosen (see the final page for different pattern ideas). As you lay each paver, do it carefully so the even bed below is not disturbed. Make sure that you leave a small gap between the pavers. You may want to start with the header course, it adds a professional finish and also helps you start with a straight line.

Running a string line for every metre of pavers laid will help you keep your job nice and straight.



Step 7: Cutting pavers

As you work you will find that you end up with spaces too big for a whole paver to fit, so you need to cut pavers to size. You will just need to measure the area and cut the paver to size. You can make the required cuts by using a brick bolster, paver splitter or masonry saw. You will be able to hire these from your local hire store. Make sure you wear safety glasses when using these pieces of equipment.



Step 8: Placing edge restraints



The edge restraint locks in the paver's edge. With the edge restraint these pavers could loosen and slip out of its position. There are several different ways to do this, one of the easiest and simplest is the hidden concrete kerb. You will need to dig a trench along the paving edge. It must be deeper than the bedding sand, into the road base. Then you will need to shovel the concrete into the trench, which will form against the pavers providing sufficient space for soils and turf. Once the concrete dries you will be able to put soil and lay grass right up to the paver's edge. Make sure that the concrete does not go under the pavers as it will prevent compaction. Be careful when pouring the concrete not to get any on the pavers as it is very difficult to remove. If you do sponge off quickly. Leave the edge restraint to dry overnight.

Step 10: Sweeping of fill sand

The final step is to spread some more fill sand, sweep it across the pavers, working it in to the gaps as you go. Sweep any excess sand off the pavers and give the pavers a light hose.



Paver Patterns

