

Installing paving stones

Do you want to install paving stones yourself? Initial planning and design are key factors for success. Here are some steps that must be followed.

■ **Preliminary planning:** Sketch a detailed diagram of the area to be paved, including all measurements required, to calculate the amount of material needed.

Select the colour and shape of paving stone to be used, and determine the laying pattern for your project. Remember to call local utilities before you dig.

■ **Base preparation:** Remove old pavement and/or existing soil, then excavate to the proper depth depending on the type of traffic. Use a plate compactor to compact the subgrade. The ground must be evenly graded and properly sloped for proper drainage.

Spread crushed aggregate uniformly throughout the excavated areas, rake level, then compact evenly.

Edge restraints must be installed to prevent lateral movement of interlocking stones. They will enhance the aesthetic appearance of your installation.

■ **Screeding:** Screeding is a procedure to smooth and level the bedding sand material prior to the installation of the interlocking stones. Spread 1 in. to 1-1/2 in. (25-38 mm) bedding sand evenly over the compacted base for the placement of the pavers.

Using a screed board, drag across two screed guides. Do not walk on the screeded surface.

■ **Paver installation:** Pavers should be taken from various bundles to ensure a proper colour dispersion. Start at an edge or in a corner to maximize the use of edge stones and minimize the amount of cutting.

Place the paving stones close together. Work from right to left, then left to right, and so on, one row of pavers at a time. Avoid stepping on the edge of the pavers to prevent shifting.

Any paving stone cutting should be done upon completion of laying your paving stone pattern. Cutting should occur away from the installed surface to avoid any staining from concrete dust or residue.

■ **Completion:** Once all pavers have been placed, sweep the entire surface clean in preparation for tamping. Then sweep on jointing sand to ensure that all joints are completely filled, then tamp.

Adding an even layer of excess jointing sand – about 1/8 in. (3 mm), tamp the finished area in both directions a second time. This ensures that all pavers are completely locked. 🌿

■ *Remember, these are just the highlights. For complete instructions and illustrations, visit www.oakspavers.com or call Oaks Concrete Products at 1-800-709-6257.*



DID YOU HEAR...?

- Using laughter-provoking movies to gauge the effect of emotions on cardiovascular health, researchers have shown for the first time that laughter is linked to the healthy function of blood vessels. Laughter appears to cause the tissue that forms the inner lining of blood vessels, the endothelium, to dilate or expand in order to increase blood flow.

