

Beautify your property with easy-to-install paving stones

There's 10 easy steps to building patios, walkways and driveways using paving stone says Unilock.

Step 1-Planning: Perhaps the most important step is planning. Draw a plan view on grid paper showing measurements and grade elevations. A Unilock dealer will then calculate the amount of materials and estimate the cost.



STEP 2: mark out the area.

Step 2-Preparation: mark out the location of the patio, walkway or driveway. Call the utilities, phone company and cable television for their locations. You will need a wheel barrow, rake, level, string, tape measure, shovel, a compactor, guillotine and/or masonry saw, gloves and safety glasses.

Step 3-

Excavation: Excavate a minimum of six to 12 inches deep. Excavate more if the soil has been previously disturbed and remove all loose soil. Remember you should



STEP 4: Creating the base

always excavate a minimum of three inches wider than the area you are actually paving. For a driveway, excavate six inches wider than the area you are paving.

Step 4-Base: Fill the area with gravel. Grade the base as closely as possible to the final contour of the finished job. Slope all installations away from the house for drainage purposes. The gravel should be three inches below finished height. Compact this gravel with several passes of the compactor until solid.

Step 5-Screeding: Lay a one inch to one and half inch bed of coarse sand, placed directly on the compacted base. Use some one inch to one and half inch diameter pipe as a screeding guide on top of the gravel. Set up the guides so that your pavers will be three-eighths of an inch above the finished level to allow for compacting. Level the sand evenly by pulling a board along the pipes. Once you have completed the area, removed the guides, and fill in the grooves. If possible, do not walk on the screeded surface.

Step 6-Laying the pavers: Place the pavers directly on the screeded bed of sand. Start laying along the longest straight side. Keep lines straight using a string line. This will minimize the cutting required. It is important that the lines of your pavers are square, 90 degrees to each other to fit properly. If you are installing circles, fans or a soldier course (a border of pavers around the perimeter of the area) you will want to place these first before installing the rest of the pattern.

Step 7-Cutting: You may need to cut pavers that don't fit along edges or around objects. Mark the pavers and cut with either a guillotine cutter or masonry saw. A guillotine cutter is the easiest method of cutting but for an exact cut, a "dry cut" masonry saw or a tub-style "wet saw" works best. These can be rented at your local rental outlet.

Step 8- Edging: Edge restraints are a critical element to the durability of a paver installation. They

prevent the pavers from moving and shifting over time.

Step. 9- Compacting: After the installation is complete, including edge restraints, the pavers must be swept clean and then compacted with a plate compactor. This helps settle the pavers into the bedding sand and creates a flat surface. For patterns such as circles, you may want to put some jointing sand in first to stabilize the smaller pieces. Three passes with the compactor going in different



STEP 8: Edging is critical

directions are recommended.

Step 10- Finishing: Sweep specially graded jointing sand into the joints between the pavers. This locks the pavers together creating a very durable surface.



STEP 10: Lock the stones in.

For complete step-by-step instructions, Unilock has videos and catalogues available all dealer locations or visit www.unilock.com.

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