

Tile Merchant

Installation Guides

Natural Stone Paving

As with other building work it is important to work safely and to take suitable safety precautions including the wearing of protective clothes, gloves, safety goggles and dust mask.

Before Beginning the Work

- Installing your own patio or driveway can be a hugely rewarding yet strenuous task. However, by following this guide you will be able to install your patio with relative ease.

— What you will need ***Tools***

- Measuring tape
- Wheelbarrow
- Spirit Level
- Dry cloth
- Pointing tool
- Trowel
- Dry cloth
- Rubber mallet
- Spade
- Rake
- Sponge

— What you will need ***Materials***

- Natural stone paving slabs
- Sand
- Cement
- Water
- Spray paint
- Hardcore



Natural Stone Paving

one

Make sure the selected area is firm, level and well drained. Mark out the area using spray paint.

two

Next grab your shovel and start digging. You must start by digging out your marked area. We advise that you dig 125mm at the minimum, plus the depth of your paving. You must remove all vegetation and top soil. Your finish surface depth should be 150mm or more.

three

Next - Install 804 Hardcore Sub Base to 100-150mm depth in the dug area, make sure the aggregate is compacted down and is rigid.

four

Mortar - we recommend that you use a wet mortar with a ratio of 5:1 wet mix of plastering sand and cement. Starting from a corner is the best option. Trowel five large dabs of mortar at each corner and also in the middle of each slab as it will give you a full bed of mortar. It is absolutely essential that natural stone paving is laid on a full bed of mortar, this will prevent any slabs rocking or coming loose.

five

Your slabs will all vary in thickness, the thicker slabs should be used first, use your rubber mallet to tap your slab into the mortar. The use of the rubber mallet will ensure that your slabs won't crack while putting them in. Once the first slab is laid you can put five more dabs of mortar onto the next slab. If you want to minimise the amount of pointing you will need to do, you could also lay a strip of mortar where the next joint will be.

six

Throughout the laying process keep using a spirit level checking all the levels and falls. This is necessary because it will help create a patio with a slight fall in it, which will help make sure the area is drained properly. Certain slabs will need cutting. If you have decided to go for sandstone slabs the recommended tool to cut them with is a consaw.

tips

Make sure that your joints are running both ways, both transversely and longitudinally.

It is vitally important that you get the ratio right when mixing your mortar. If your mortar is too wet water will leak out and if it's too dry it will eventually crumble.