



**Cotswold
Natural
Stone**

LAYING EXTERNAL PAVING

1. Prepare the site

Dig out the area to be paved, ensuring adequate fall is allowed for drainage away from any abutting buildings, to ensure water does not stand on paved area after rain. A fall of about 1:100 should suit most situations.

2. Lay the sub base

It is imperative that a firm but FREE DRAINING sub base is prepared before laying slabs. This should be 75-100mm of Type 1 Sub Base.

We recommend that to cover an area with 75mm depth of sub base you will need 1 tonne of material for every 9 sqm. Once laid, compress the sub base into position using a plate-wacker, ensuring a good firm surface is achieved. Failure to do so will result in trapped water underneath the patio resulting in cracking and subsidence.

3. Some paving should be sealed before laying

Very pale paving, particularly sandstone and York stone benefits from being sealed before the paving is laid.

4. How to lay the paving slabs

We recommend slabs be laid on a full bed of wet mortar as this enables you to adjust individual slabs allowing for any variations in thickness. We recommend wet mortar is made using mixed soft sand – a 50/50 mix of soft and sharp sand, and cement at a ratio of 5:1 with adequate water to create a firm but wet rather than damp mortar. We advise using this particular sand mix to create the ideal medium for your natural stone slabs to be laid on. We advise this as 100% soft sand, used by some builders, can create problems, as the wet mix doesn't have the strength to support the pavers whilst wet.

5. Tamping natural stone slabs into position

After placement of paving slabs onto the wet mortar bed, they should be tamped into position using a rubber mallet, tapping firmly on each corner whilst checking the level in each direction as you go. The wet mortar is quite forgiving at this stage, and this helps the placement of the slabs in the perfect position. If you are laying very light coloured paving, it is advisable to use a white rubber mallet to avoid unnecessary marking.

6. How much space to leave for pointing gaps between laid paving slabs

With sawn paving it is possible to reduce the pointing gap to 3-5mm.

7. Ensure correct blend of slabs by selecting individual slabs from several project packs at a time

Colour and tonal variation will occur in natural products. This means that when using several project packs, slabs should be blended throughout the project to produce an overall natural appearance by selecting from all crates as the patio is laid.

Inspiring lives and legacies in stone

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8. Sealing the paving

Please ensure that if you intend to seal your patio to protect it from staining, then sealing should be completed before pointing the paving. We recommend sealing your stone, in order to protect it in the long term. It will preserve the original colour by making it easier to remove stains and dirt.

9. Pointing the slabs

When the patio has been laid, it is necessary to fill the pointing gaps.

It is essential to create a permeable joint enabling surface water to drain through – providing the correct sub base has been laid first! (See above).

Sawn paving can be pointed with 3-5mm joints between each slab.

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