

GUIDANCE FROM BUILDLAND

PRODUCT GUIDE - MANUFACTURED AND NATURAL STONE PAVING

Choosing to have a new patio or paved area installed is a long term investment and needs careful planning. All Buildland paving products need correct installation, protection and maintenance to help retain their natural character and beauty, as well as the long-term integrity of the area.

The following is a guide only, which is applicable to both manufactured and natural stone paving. We would recommend you seek advice from a professional contractor.

Choosing your paving

Be sure that the product you have chosen is suitable for the project you are planning before ordering, and more importantly before laying of the paving has commenced.

Ordering your paving

Check quantities required and then check again. Order all materials to complete your project at the same time. To avoid delays to your project once it is underway, do not start work until you are sure all materials you require are with your supplier.

Laying the paving

This is not a comprehensive step by step guide, we recommend you always seek professional advice.

The paving you have chosen should be seen as the 'top dressing' to your patio, but the key to achieving the visual result that enhances your garden is to get the preparation, installation, and finishing correct. This will ensure that your new paved area will give you many years of use and pleasure. Choose products and methods suitable for your project, non-professionals should seek advice.

Preparation and Drainage

Always allow sufficient drainage when siting the patio and in preparation of the base. Poor drainage may lead to water retention which could affect the weathering and performance of the paved area.

- Drain away from the house, wherever possible. If the design of the area does not allow this, then drainage channels along the length of the property must be installed.
- Paving should be laid with a fall of 1:80.
- Surface level of the paving should be two courses below the Damp Proof Course of the property.

Laying

- All flags need to be laid on a full mortar bed, with no gaps or voids beneath.
- Do not "Dot & Dab" any stone or concrete product.
- Mortar to be mixed with the ratio of 5:1 sharp sand and Cement/Light coloured paving could suffer from discolouration, so we would recommend a silver sand and white cement.
- Full mortar bed to be a 35mm-55mm depth.
- Check levels constantly while you work.
- BEWARE Natural Stone is laid with the narrowest surface facing the ground, making an inverted 'V' joint.
- When laying Natural Stone, the jointing gap will typically be 10mm measured at the upper face, depending on the laying pattern selected and the finish on the flags' edge.
- On concrete paving, the gap between slabs should be sufficient enough to allow a key for the jointing mix. Some manufactured paving has a sloping side, making a 'V' joint. The base of these slabs must not be touching.
- There are many different ways to joint your paving. Using a building sand and cement mix to the ratio of 3:1 is the traditional technique. There are a number of resin/polymeric based brush in products on the market that are just as effective.

Cutting

Avoid cutting concrete paving whenever possible. If absolutely necessary, it is advised that the slab is cut with an angle grinder and diamond cutting blade. Always try to cut in a straight line and avoid cutting angles.

CHARACTERISTICS OF NATURAL STONE PAVING

Finish and Sizing

As part of the production process, natural stone will contain blemishes, veining, small chipping and small holes. All of which are natural characteristics of the stone. Most chips will not be visible once installed and pointed. Order an extra 10% for wastage, cuts, and pieces that you may not wish to use.

All Natural Stone varies in colour, texture, markings, and touch. These variations are what gives natural stone its uniqueness and add to its appeal. Small samples will not always give an accurate reflection of how the patio will look once finished. Therefore, we recommend you visit one of our stockists who will be more than happy to advise you. These variations are accepted as unavoidable within the landscaping industry. Natural Stone will have a dimension tolerance of +/- 5mm.

Colour Variations

All natural stone contains a variation in colour, veining, shading, may contain blemishes and other natural characteristics. These are all perfectly normal and not a sign of any fault in the product. Natural shade variations need to be evenly distributed across the paved area. If multi packs are ordered, open and sort all crates so a good colour mix can be achieved. Grey Sandstone contains natural iron and this may oxidise and show as brown markings. This is inherent in the stone and should not be seen as a fault. Black limestone may lighten as a result of natural light and weathering.

Please contact your stockist or speak with a professional contractor for advice. Buildland cannot be held responsible or accept liability for natural characteristics within the stone.

Sealing and Aftercare

Not all Natural Stone needs to be sealed. Sealants will often change the look of the paved area and it is the owner's choice whether to do this. We suggest you take the advice of your installer. If the decision is taken to seal, we advise that the area should be clean and perfectly dry before the commencement of sealing. Use an impregnator that will penetrate deep into the stone. This will inhibit water and oil passing through the surface and help prevent staining. Always follow the manufacturer's installation advice on any product applied to our products. Regularly clean with a light jet wash each season and use a market leading brand of chemical stone cleaner to keep your stone looking brand new. DO NOT use acid based cleaners.

5 TOP TIPS

1. Prepare and plan
2. Always use a full mortar bed when laying the flags. Point all choices of paving.
3. When using multiple packs, open all packs and randomly select flags from each pack to blend colour variances.
4. DO NOT use acid based cleaners on any of our products. These will severely damage your paving. Use a mild detergent instead.
5. Visit your local stockist to view the paving. Brochure prints will not always give accurate colour variations.

Points to be aware of before using our paving products

- Please check suitability of the product before purchasing and laying.
- Order all materials to complete your project at the same time.
- If using more than one pack, please ensure that you lay the product at random from all packs to minimize any unavoidable shade variations.
- No claims can be entertained once the product has been laid.
- Buildland recommend that block paving is laid by either a professional contractor or those experienced in DIY.