

how to: pavers

**Landscaping
Solutions**

- entertaining areas
- driveways & pathways
- feature areas

Before you start

1. Check with your council

Pavers can usually be laid around your house without council approval. However, if you're doing a driveway or working in an area where water run-off is an issue, you may need to contact your local authority. Some of the newer residential communities have covenants covering the use of driveway materials. If so, get authorisation before proceeding.

2. Check off your equipment

- Garden gloves
- Wheelbarrow
- Road base
- Spade
- Rubber mallet
- Coarse sand

To lay courtyard/pathway pavers, you'll also need...

- Fine sand
- Ear muffs
- Spirit level
- String line
- Cement
- Wacker packer
- Bricksaw
- Straight edge
- Broom
- Small trowel

To lay a driveway, you may also need ...

- Concrete
- Steel reinforcement

3. Work out how many pavers you need

1. Grab a pencil, paper and tape measure. Measure the length and the width of the area to be paved. Then multiply one by the other to determine the total area in square metres. Make an appropriate allowance for irregular shaped areas or curved edges.

2. Hanson pavers come in a number of sizes. Here's a guide to how many of each type you'll need to lay one square metre.

PAVER TYPE	SIZE	NUMBER REQ'D PER SQ M
Cottage	200 x 200 x 50 mm	25
Cottage Brick	200 x 100 x 50 mm	50
Interlock	225 x 113 x 60 /80 mm	40
Santa Fe	400 x 400 x 50/60 mm	6.25
Euro	400 x 400 x 40 mm	6.25
Grass Paver	387 x 290 x 90 mm	9

Santa Fe is known as QuartzStone in Tasmania and Reef Tile in Nth QLD

3. Multiply the number required per sq m by the area to be covered to determine total number of pavers required.

Add 2% to this figure to allow for mishaps and cut pavers.

Getting on v

1. Clear your site

Mark out the area to be paved. Dig out the existing lawn, loose earth and buried dog bones to a depth of around 150mm below the required finished height of your pavers. Remove all plant matter including roots as any vegetation you leave in the ground will break down and cause your paving to sink in the near future. Scrape the bottom of your work area flat with your shovel.



Handy tips: Dig and shovel straight into your wheelbarrow. No point double handling.

2. Add road base

Tip in your road base and level to a depth of around 75mm. Fire up your wacker packer and compact 2 or 3 times until you have a nice firm surface. If you're paving a driveway, you might be better off using poured concrete for your foundation. It's more expensive but also more stable.



Handy tips: Use ear muffs when you use a wacker packer.

3. Add coarse sand

It's best to lay your pavers on a bed of washed coarse sand. A 25mm layer on top of your road base (or concrete) should do the trick. Tip in the sand, rake it around, until you have an even level distribution of sand which can be obtained using a wacker packer.



Handy tips: Keep off the grass. Keep all your gear in one tidy place.

4. Screed smooth

Working from the far end, screen your sand smooth with a long straight float. Timber edge rails half a paver depth below the existing ground level might help here. Use a spirit level to make sure your compacted sand slopes away from your house and towards your lawn or garden for rainwater run off.



Handy tips: You can't be too smooth. Make sure your sand bed is nice and flat before you lay any pavers.

5. Start paving

Set up a string line and carefully place your first row of pavers in position. Make sure your line is dead straight. Santa Fe pavers have little nibs on all four sides so they can be end-butted together. Space other pavers types a few millimeters apart using the blade of a trowel to get a consistent gap.



Handy tips: Keep close to the ground (not arched over) when laying pavers to protect your back.

with the job

6. Cut corners

If you're paving out into an area bounded by grass (or a movable garden bed edge) you might get away without needing to cut any pavers. But if you want to in-lay a pattern, do a curved edge, use interlocking pavers, or fit your paving snugly around things like down pipes, it's time to down tools and refer to the separate section on cutting pavers.



Handy tips: Choosing the right sized paver for certain jobs can eliminate the need to get in a concrete saw.

7. Set square

With the first line of pavers laid, it's time to head off in a different direction. Grab a big right angle square to set a course at exactly 90 degrees to the first row and off you go. As you work forward, use a rubber mallet to tap your pavers down for a nice flush surface.



Handy tips: Don't walk on your smoothed sand.

8. Edging

Unless your pavers are being laid up against a wall they should be secured at every edge with pre-mixed concrete (add water only) or a mixture of coarse sand and cement at a 4:1 ratio. The finished edge of your paved area should be raised a little bit above any surrounding lawn.



Handy tips: For a neat job, trowel the excess cement up against the paver at a 45 degree angle.

9. Sweep in sand

This is the easy bit. With all your pavers now in position, it's time to tip a load of fine sand on top and sweep it into all the little crevices.



Handy tips: For a fine finish, use fine sand at this stage.

10. Pack it in

Drag the whacker plate on to the paved areas and begin compacting the pavers. Once or twice will do the job. If you have returned the compactor to the hire yard, don't panic - a piece of solid timber used in conjunction with a rubber mallet will do the job.



Handy tips: An old piece of carpet under the compacting plate will avoid chipping any pavers.

How to cut pavers



There's only one way to do the job properly and that's with an electric brick saw. Get one from your local hire place and you'll get a professional looking job done in next to no time.

These beasts have sharp teeth so keep the kiddies away and follow the operating instructions very carefully. Eye protection is absolutely compulsory and so are ear muffs.

The trick to cutting blocks is to accurately draw your cut line on the paver in the first place. Simply place the paver where you want it to end up then mark your cut line with a felt pen running along a straight line or spirit level. Allow for a gap of a few millimetres between the laid pavers.

If you want to do a sweeping curve, lay the pavers in place then mark them as a group before picking up and cutting the edge pavers one at a time. Replace and grout header course in position. Easiest way is to use a garden hose with the tap on and the spray nozzle off, as the water pressure will form a more uniform curve.

For round corners, scribe an arc on the pavers with a marker pen connected by string to a central point.

Handy tips: Avoid confusion. When cutting pavers, place a X on the bit you don't need.



Step this way

Stepping stones are dead set easy to lay. Start by walking down the goat track you currently use to get where you want to go. Look back and take note of where you left your footprints. That's where you want to centre your pavers – a lazy stride apart.

Dig out some squares in the grass about 100mm bigger each way than the paver you've chosen to lay. (It's recommended that you go for the big 400 x 400 mm Euro pavers.)

Tip in some road base and jump up and down with the old size 10s. Add some coarse sand (preferably with cement at a 4:1 ratio) and place your pavers in position. Ideally these should sit flush with the surrounding grass (or feature stones.)

Tamp down with a rubber mallet, fill in around the edges with some of the lawn you dug out earlier, and you're done. Too easy!



Safety first

Always wear eye protection when you're splitting or cutting Hanson pavers. Wear ear protection if you use a whacker packer. Bend your knees when lifting heavy pavers. Wear work boots to protect your toes and gardening gloves to protect your hands. Slip, slop, slap, if you're working in the sun. Remember to keep your fluids up.

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