

PEYTONS

P A V I N G S

Patio DIY Guide

Equipment Needed

Paving slabs	For Larger Patios
Sharp sand	
Cement	Cement mixer
Hardcore or shingle	Angle grinder
Rake	Angle grinder blade (Preferably a diamond blade)
Shovel	Vibrating Plate
Tape measure	
Spirit level	
Bricklayer's Trowel	
String lines	
Timber straight edge	
Soft brush	
Cement mixing board	
Mallet	
Bucket & a Broom	

Laying Your Paving

1. Draw a plan of your patio to scale. Have the layout and colours clear before you start. Include the gap between each slab - approx 10mm.
2. The finished patio level should ideally be two brick courses below the damp course. To allow for drainage, the level should slope slightly away from the house if this is where it is situated.
3. If your ground is firm and dry, you will only need to dig deep enough for the thickness of your paving slabs plus 4-5 cm. However, most gardens will benefit from an additional layer of hardcore or shingle for drainage and strength. No more than 10cm of this should be needed for a patio.
4. Fill the area with your hardcore layer and then a layer of sharp sand, making sure that both are compacted as firmly as possible. You can walk on a plank of wood to level the sand before you tread the area, distributing it evenly using the rake.
5. Mix up some mortar with a moderate consistency(not too dry or too wet) using 1 part cement to 5 parts sand.
6. Working against a straight edge, prepare a mortar bed for first slab, place slab in position, prepare the next bed & so on.
7. Use the spirit level and a mallet to level each slab - take the level over a number of slabs after you have laid a few slabs .
8. Space the slabs evenly.
9. Once the whole patio is down, leave it for at least 24 hours before you walk on it.

Pointing

1. Ideally, pointing should be done within 4 hours of a paving being layed and ideally in a dry but cool part of the day.
2. Make a mix of 4 parts building sand to 1 part cement, just about enough so it clumps into a ball when compressed in the hand. It also helps to use a plasticiser.
3. Using a pointing trowel, feed mortar into joints, being careful to avoid staining the slabs. Pack down with the trowel. 'Polish' mortar with a rounded pointing bar (e.g. a short length of copper tube.)
4. When mortar starts to set use a soft brush to sweep ACROSS the joint to dust off any mortar left on the surface of the slabs.