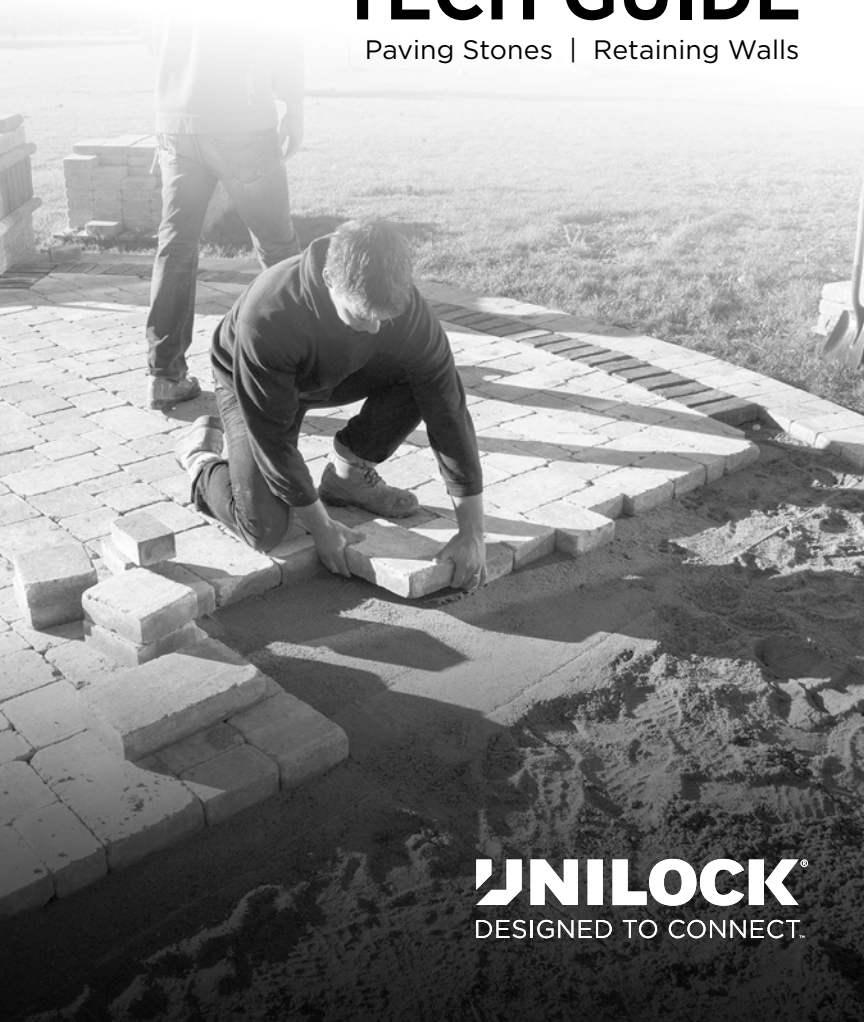




ADVANCED **TECH GUIDE**

Paving Stones | Retaining Walls



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DESIGNED TO CONNECT.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The content of this manual was developed using the vast experience acquired by the Unilock sales force during more than 40 years in the precast concrete industry.

Unilock has attempted to ensure that all information contained in this guide is correct; however, there is the possibility that this guide may contain errors. Review all critical designs with your local Unilock representative prior to construction. Final determination of the suitability of any information or material is the sole responsibility of the user. Products mentioned herein are subject to regional availability. Check for product availability at your Unilock location.

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As North America's premier paving stone and retaining wall manufacturer, Unilock is a dynamic organization at the forefront of the commercial and residential concrete landscape products industry. Our exclusive range of products, services and expertise is continually expanding. Whether you are building a complete streetscape or a residential walkway, patio or driveway, Unilock can provide you with a range of shapes, colors and textures second to none within the precast concrete industry. Be sure to use Unilock products made with EnduraColor™ and EnduraColor™ Plus. Visit our website to learn more.

This manual is a basic guide for the construction of any type of project involving paving stones and segmental retaining walls. Hands-on training is also available at Unilock Installation & Design Seminars. For a listing of seminars near you, visit www.unilock.com.

Overview of Interlocking Concrete Pavements

Concept

Interlocking concrete pavements are generally composed of a surface consisting of precast modular concrete units of varying shapes, colors and textures. These are placed over a graded sand and gravel base and interlocked with bedding and joint sand, which can be constructed over a variety of sub-bases. Because they work as a flexible pavement, they can flex with minor movements in the base without cracking, making them an ideal pavement for North America's climate. This uniqueness gives them a distinct advantage over asphalt, poured and stamped concrete.

Advantages

Concrete paving stones offer a great variety of advantages over all other types of paving products:

- *Durability* - The combination of high density, high compressive strength and low absorption rate makes concrete paving stones highly resistant to salt scaling, a common problem with some types of concrete. EnduraColor and EnduraColor Plus products from Unilock take performance and aesthetics to a whole new level. Learn more at www.unilock.com.
- *Reusable* - If the pavers must be removed in order to correct a pavement problem, or to allow utility installation or repair, the pavers are completely reusable.
- *Aesthetics* - The visual impact of paving stones adds character and charm to any installation. With interlocking pavers, color, shape and texture can be incorporated to complement any project design.
- *Freeze-thaw resistance* - Frost damage is virtually nonexistent. The joints between the paver units absorb any movement caused by frost.

- *Below ground access* - Pavers can be removed and reinstalled without any visual or functional changes. This is ideal for utility access below ground.
- *Skid resistance* - The surface texture of pavers gives superior traction in pedestrian, automotive and pool applications.
- *Economics* - Paving stones offer an economical alternative to other types of pavement especially over the long term. When maintenance and replacement costs are considered, other forms of paving are usually more expensive.
- *Maintenance* - With proper installation, pavers require low maintenance.
- *Accessories* - Accessory products for pavers, such as lights, are available to transform outdoor spaces into more functional areas.
- *Modularity* - Paving stones can be installed in a variety of patterns, including curves, straight lines and intricate designs, and add vitality to almost any environment. The combination of compatible shapes, sizes and colors gives the installer the opportunity to do "Paver Quilting".
- *Ready to use* - They may be used immediately upon completion of installation.

Components

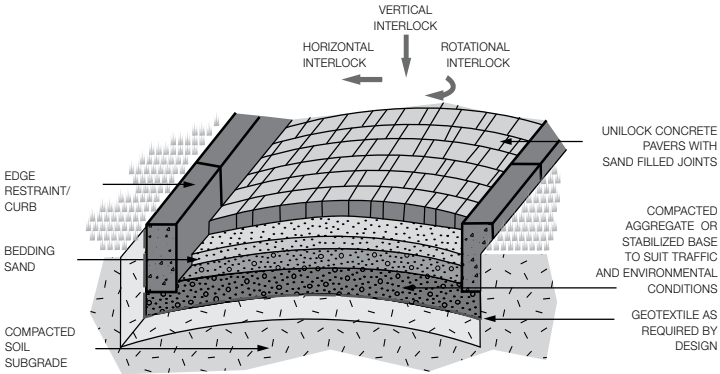


Figure 1. Typical components of an interlocking concrete pavement system.

The unique aspect of concrete pavers is that they interlock to help spread any load points. There are three ways pavers interlock: Vertical, Horizontal and Rotational. (Figure 1) Vertical interlock is achieved by the shear transfer of loads to surrounding units through the sand in the joints. Horizontal is maintained by the pavers being of sufficient thickness, placed closely together, and restrained by a curb from lateral forces. Rotational interlock is achieved through the use of laying patterns that disperse forces from braking, turning and accelerating vehicles.

Typical cross sections

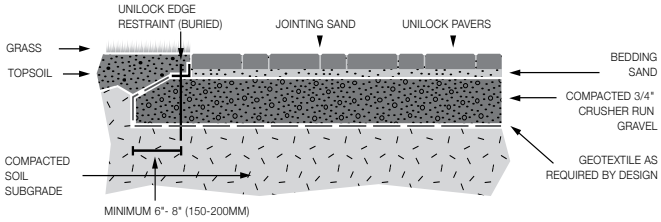


Figure 2. Paver installation with PVC or aluminum edge restraint

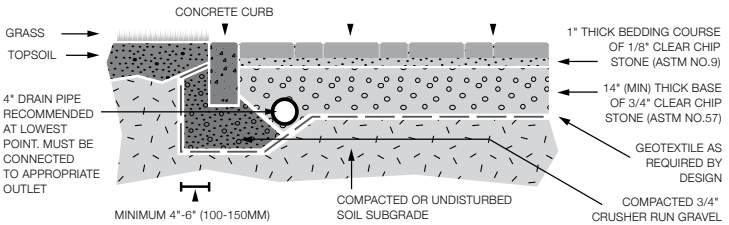


Figure 3. Permeable paver installation with precast or cast-in-place curb unit
See page 16 for more on permeable (open-graded) applications and installation methods.

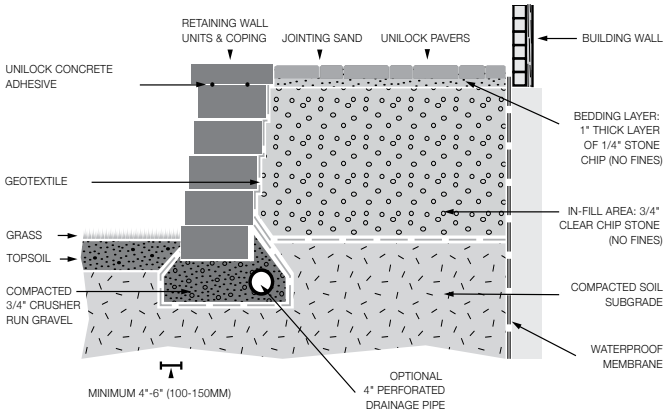


Figure 4. Patio/Terrace installation with wall units and coping

Note:

No final compaction of pavers is possible with this installation method. The screed bed will not make any allowances for paver height differential. Manual adjustment of paver heights may be required.

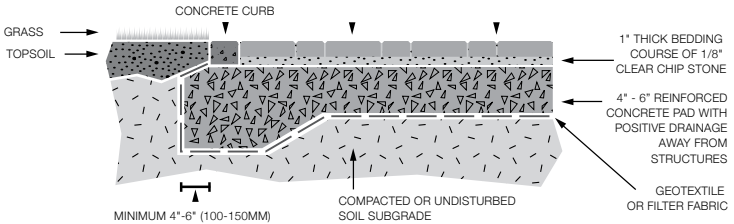


Figure 5. Paver installation over cast-in-place concrete

Caution: Pavers over Concrete

A bedding course of 1/8" clear chip stone on a concrete pad will provide the necessary drainage required, but will provide little or no "give" when final compaction of the pavers is attempted. You also run the risk of damaging the pavers.

Therefore we highly recommend that you make the necessary height adjustments (if any) to the individual stone units to achieve a flat surface. You may attempt to compact any slight variances out using a small vibratory plate compactor that is fitted with a protective pad. **Cease any further compaction if damage occurs.**

Concept

All Unilock's retaining wall systems have been engineered to work on the basic premise that the mass of the concrete units will counter the force of the soils being retained. To achieve this, units are simply stacked on top of each other using a runner bond pattern. The locking mechanism on each of the units interlocks with the units below. This creates a strong connection between the individual units, preventing sliding and bulging of the wall.

Most Unilock retaining wall systems have a patented offset tongue-and-groove design, which ensures that each course is installed at the appropriate setback, further increasing the wall's stability. When the wall has been assembled, the retaining wall system remains flexible. This allows the wall to endure minimal settlement, deflection and freeze/thaw movement.

For the construction of walls less than 36" (1m) in height, where good soil conditions exist, the typical installation method described in this guide should be used. When walls exceed this height, consult your local planning department and obtain professional engineering services.

Advantages

Unilock retaining wall systems offer a great variety of advantages over all other types of retaining wall products:

- *Modularity* - These walls are flexible, yet retain their structural characteristics. Unilock retaining wall units are easy to use and are dry stacking (no mortar required). They do not require special concrete footings to be installed. These multi-component systems allow for complete flexibility in design and ease of installation.
- *Freeze-Thaw Resistance* - These walls can absorb minor movements due to frost or settlement.
- *Aesthetic* - The visual impact of our retaining walls add character and charm to any project. With Unilock retaining walls, color, shape and texture can be incorporated to complement the landscape design.
- *Components* - Many components are included with Unilock retaining walls. With these, it is easy to save time during installation and create a uniform finished look for the wall.
- *Maintenance* - With proper installation, walls require virtually no maintenance.
- *Trouble-free Base* - A compacted granular base is all that is required. This reduces cost by not requiring an expensive structural footing.
- *Mechanical Installation* - Some Unilock wall systems can be mechanically installed, reducing installation time and labor required.

Components

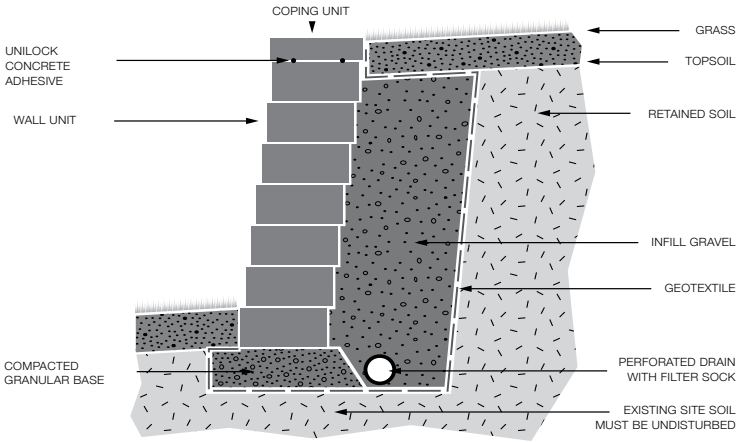


Figure 6. Conventional gravity structure

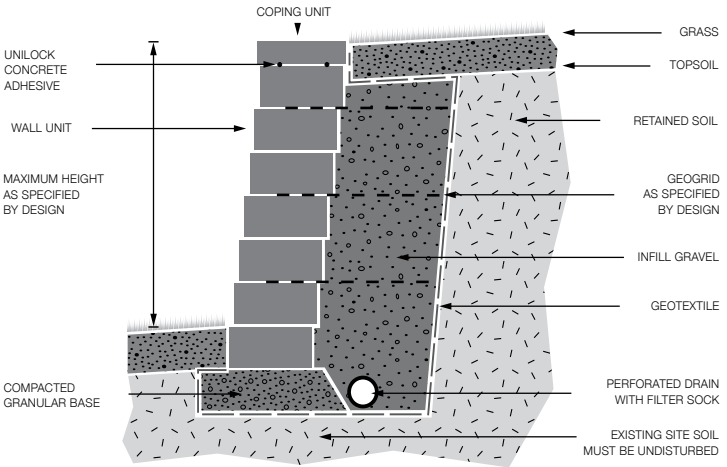


Figure 7. Typical components of a geogrid reinforced retaining wall

Sketch or plan

A well thought-out design, combined with proper planning, makes the installation proceed smoothly and ensures a quality installation. Proper planning and organization will reduce headaches and costly mistakes and will improve customer relations.

It is recommended to elaborate on a plan, showing all measurements, diagrams and cross sections for all landscape elements. Elevation views and all details involved in the project should be sketched as well.

Engineering design and certification

Walls greater than 3' (1m) or with a heavy load must be engineered by a qualified engineer. Some municipalities require even lower heights, such as 2' (600mm), to be designed by an engineer. Fencing or railing may also be required. Verify local codes.

Only “stamped” drawings from a qualified engineer should be used for your installation. A retaining wall is an engineered structure and must be installed as per engineering guidelines. Failure to install its properly could result in wall failure, leading to property damage or personal injury. A failed installation is very expensive to remedy.

The presence of slopes greater than 3:1 or other weights, such as vehicular traffic above a wall, can adversely affect the wall's performance. This needs to be identified for appropriate engineering.

Flow of materials

Moving material onto the site and balancing the flow of material before the job begins are important to complete the job without delays. Planning the movement and timing of materials also affects the productivity of the crew.

Consider where all materials need to be dumped or placed. Allow space on the site for their delivery. Avoid placing material away from the project area and hauling them in small quantities to the different areas. This wastes time. (Figure 8)

Efficient handling of the pavers will affect the length of time taken to complete the balance of the job. It is recommended to use a forklift or a paver cart so it is possible to move a whole section of pavers at once. This tool will reduce labor costs and can pay for itself in a single job.

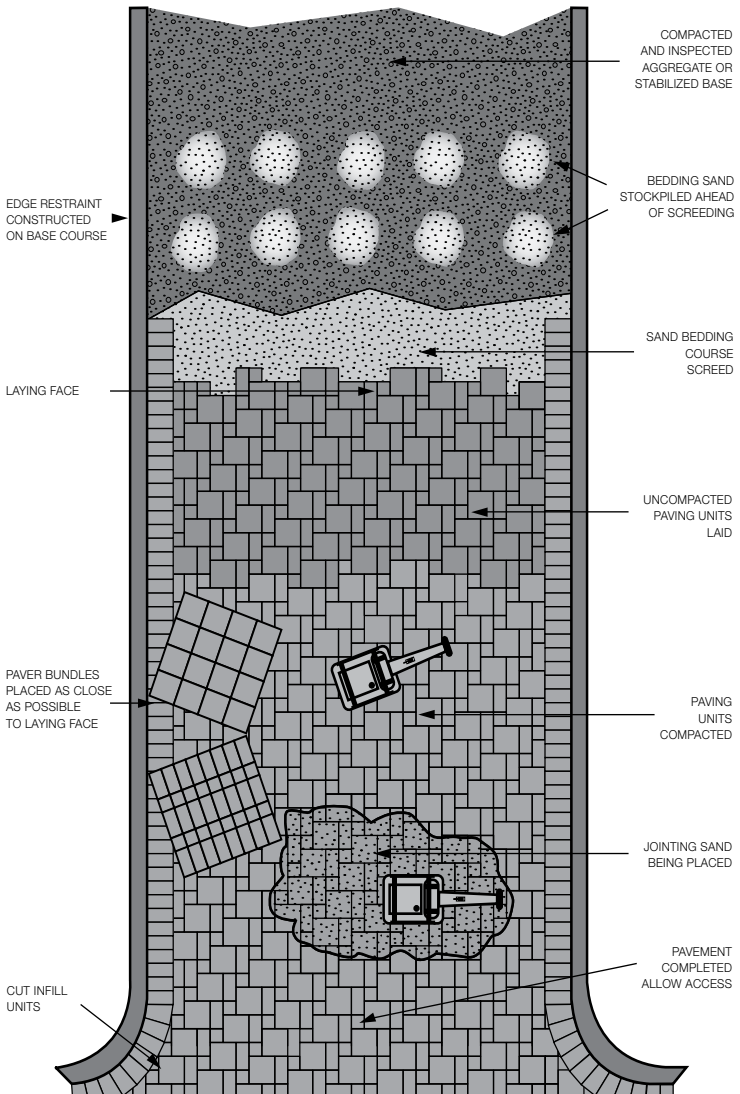


Figure 8. Flow of material onto the job side

Utilities location

For personal safety of all crew members, make sure that all underground utilities have been located and clearly marked. Contact local utility companies to find any underground services, such as telephone, electricity, gas, cable TV, etc. Mark any structures, such as water supply, irrigation piping, storm and sanitary sewer, etc.

Base Construction

Layout for excavation

Stake out the area - Before excavation begins, mark out the perimeter with paint, locating all elements, such as steps, planters, raised patios, etc.,. In order to get a “feel” for the design. This will make it easier for the crew working on the job to understand the scope of the project. Set measurements and stakes with another crew member as a “double-check”. (Figure 9) Changes sometimes need to be made from the original plan due to certain site issues that were not addressed in the original design.

The perimeter of the paver and wall installation should be at least 8” (200mm) greater than the actual area to be constructed. Mark the elevations on stakes with string lines so that the depth of excavation can be checked as it progresses. Using a nylon mason’s line set the finished elevation of the pavement. Measure all excavations and base thickness from these lines.

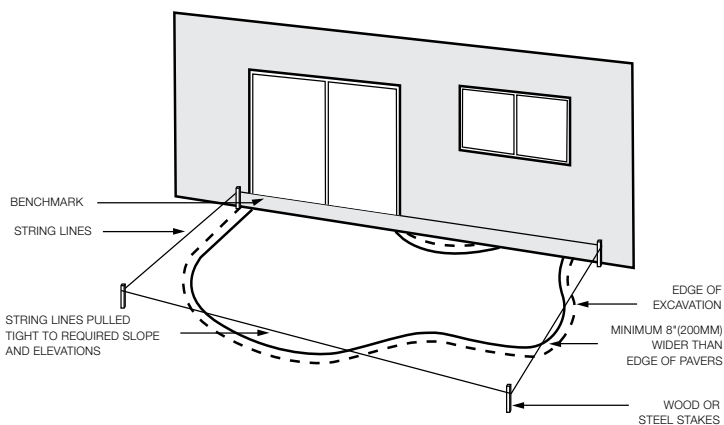


Figure 9. Project layout and staking

Excavation

There are several factors associated with base construction that may impact the depth requirements of the base. The depth of excavation depends on load requirements, drainage, existing soil conditions and paver or wall style and thickness. To determine the depth of the excavation, use of the following tables is recommended:

Table 3: Typical base thickness for pavers

PAVERS	WELL DRAINED AREA /SANDY SUBSOIL		POORLY DRAINED AREA /CLAY SUBSOIL		PAVER THICKNESS
	GRANULAR BASE (MIN)	BEDDING COURSE (MAX)	GRANULAR BASE (MIN)	BEDDING COURSE (MAX)	
Pedestrian Traffic Patios, Walkways, Pool Decks	6" - 8" (15cm - 20cm)	1" (25mm)	8" - 12" (20cm - 30cm)	1" (25mm)	2¾" (60mm) 2¾" (70mm)
Vehicular Traffic Residential Driveways	8" - 14" (20cm - 34cm)	1" (25mm)	12" - 16" (30cm - 40cm)	1" (25mm)	2¾" (60mm) 2¾" (70mm) 2½" (80mm)
Vehicular Traffic Commercial Areas <small>(Always refer to site engineer- ing for commercial areas)</small>	14" + (35cm +)	1" (25mm)	16" + (40cm +)	1" (25mm)	2¾" (70mm) 3½" (80mm)
Total Excavation = Granular Base + Bedding Course + Paver Thickness - ¼" (6.5mm) for an uncompacted bedding thickness					
<small>Note: Excavation depth guide is only a guide. Site engineering or experienced contractor guidance is always recommended.</small> <small>All measurements and conversions are nominal.</small>					

Table 4: Typical base thickness for walls and required backfill

WALLS	GRANULAR BASE	UNIT THICKNESS BELOW GRADE	GRANULAR BACKFILL WIDTH
Steps, Planters, Raised Patio Minimum Height less than 18" (45 cm)	Min. 4" (100cm)	Min. 3" (75mm)	Min. 8" - 12" (200mm - 300mm)
Steps, Planters, Raised Patio Height greater than 18" (45 cm)	Min. 6" (150cm)	Min. 6" (150mm)	Min. 12" - 18" (300mm - 450mm)
Special Applications Pillars, Fountains, Water Features	Min. 6" (150cm)	Min. 6" (150cm)	N/A
Retaining Wall Applications	Min. 6" (150cm)	Min. 6" (150cm)	Min. 18" (450mm)
Total Excavation = Granular Base + Unit Thickness Below Grade			

Table 4 is based on well-drained and undisturbed soils. The granular backfill depends on type of soil, drainage conditions, height and type of wall (gravity, reinforced or crib).

Soil conditions

When working in areas where there are poor soil conditions (e.g. heavy clay, disturbed soils), there is the potential for surface deformation or settlement. Action must be taken to increase the depth of the base to provide more stability. Always remove any loose or disturbed soils.

Here are some quick field tests that can provide hints on the type of soil in the job site:

Quick field identification - By using simple field tests like the “patty”, “shake” and “snake” tests, a good idea of the basic soil type can be obtained. For each test, take a soil sample and add enough water to make it into a “putty type” consistency. Form the soil into a ball about the size of an egg. This is easily done for most clay and silt soils. Forming sandy soils may not be possible and may not be necessary since its gritty texture indicates its classification.

- For the “patty” test, flatten out a sample about 3/8” (10mm) thick and let it dry in the sun. After it is dry, it will either break easily or be more difficult to break. If it is difficult to break, it has high clay content. If it breaks easily, it has a predominance of sand and silt in it.
- For the “shake” test, cup the ball of soil in two hands and shake vigorously for about 30 seconds. If small drops of water are released to the surface and hands, there is some sand in the soil. If no water is released, the soil is clay or contains some silt.
- The “snake” test is done with clay or silt soils to determine how much water they will hold. This is seen by rolling the sample into a few moistened “snakes” about 3/8” (10mm) in diameter. If snakes can be made greater than 2” (50mm) long, the soil has potential to hold much water (high plasticity soil). If the snake falls apart before it rolls into a 2” length, the soil is consider low plasticity and will drain water.

Site drainage

All lines and final elevations of the pavement should slope away from the house or building. The minimum recommended slope is 2% or 1/4” per every foot of pavement (20mm per meter) as this will better facilitate drainage (Figure 10). The maximum slope for comfortable walking is 7 degrees or about 12%. Note: 8% is the steepest slope for pedestrian accessibility.

Grading of the base material is often done with a large landscape rake guided by several string lines. Larger areas may require the use of a transit (surveyor’s level) to accomplish more delicate grades.

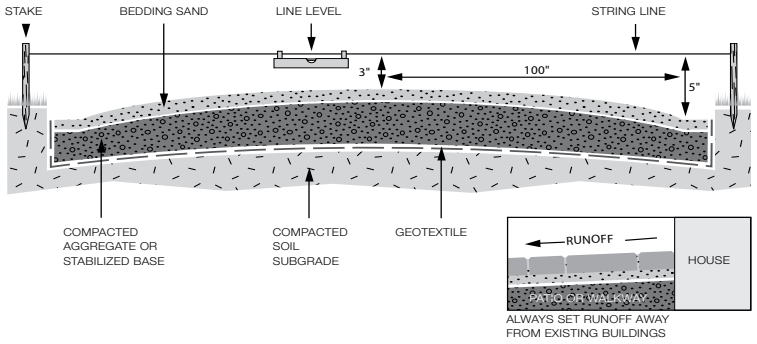


Figure 10. 2% is the minimum recommended slope for site drainage.

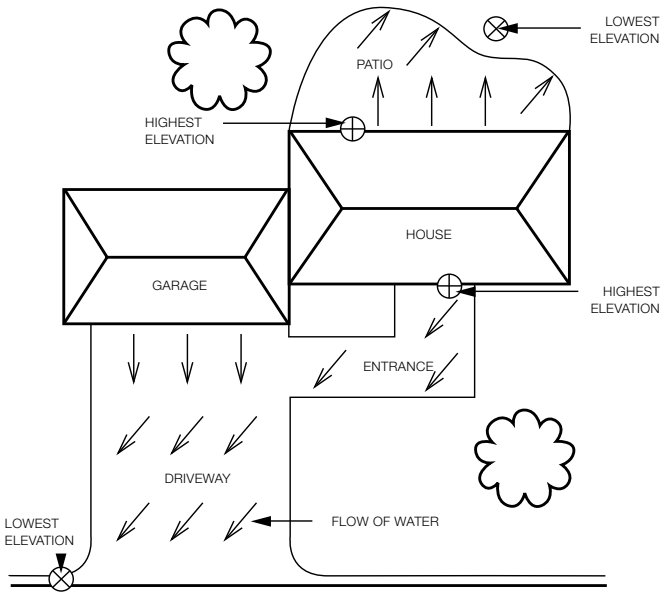
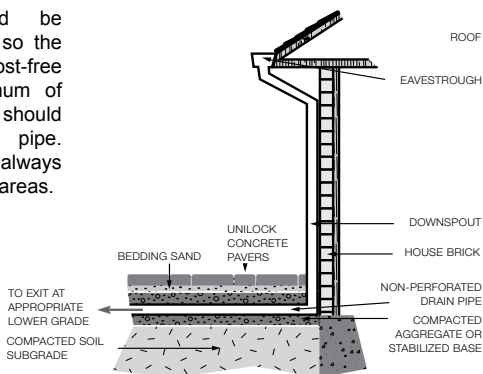


Figure 11. Runoff should always be directed to the lowest elevation.

Downspouts - Rerouting downspouts (Figure 12) so that the roof water is diverted away from paved areas is an inexpensive insurance for protecting the integrity of the installation and it is easy to do early on in the project. The trenches may need to be excavated manually so a proper slope can be put on the pipe.

Drain pipes should be surrounded by gravel so the area remains as frost-free as possible. A minimum of 3" (75mm) of gravel should always surround the pipe. To avoid settlement, always compact well trenched areas.

Figure 12.
Downspout



Soil compaction

Once an area has been excavated, the soils at the bottom must be compacted prior to the placement of the new base material. It is important to spend as much time as possible compacting to achieve good compaction. Insufficient compaction may result in settlement.

Compaction achieves four main purposes. It increases the load-bearing capacity of the soil, prevents settlement/rutting, reduces seasonal movement from moisture changes and freeze-thaw cycles and helps ensure that movement during freeze-thaw cycles is uniform.

Avoid compacting excessively wet or dry soils. Every soil has optimum moisture content. Higher or lower water content than optimum produces lower density during compaction. The optimum moisture content in relation to density of a soil is normally tested in a soil laboratory using the Standard Proctor Density (SPD) test.

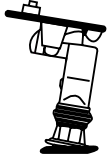
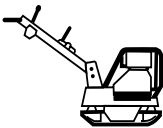
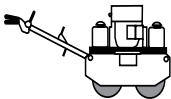
Compaction moisture content field test - For non-commercial applications, the “drop” test is a simple soil moisture content field test. Prior to soil compaction, remove a sample from the newly excavated subgrade surface and press it into a tennis-ball-sized clump. Hold the ball about 2' (600mm) above a flat rigid surface and drop it. If the sample breaks into at least three or four equal size particles, it is close to optimum moisture content and ready to compact. If it breaks into many small pieces, it is too dry and water may need to be applied to the soil prior to compacting. If the ball doesn't break at all, it is too wet and the soil will likely need to dry prior to compacting.

Right equipment - The best way to compact cohesive soils, such as clay and silt, is with a low amplitude vibratory roller or rammer (Table 5) as they effectively remove air and force the particles closer together. For very heavy clays, a minimum 5,000 lbf (21 kN) reversible plate rammer is recommended. Adding a thin layer of base material (1/2" - 10mm) over stable but sticky clay can reduce compaction time.

Non-cohesive soils, like sands and sandy gravels, compact best with vibratory plate compactors and vibratory rollers. It's recommended to use large plate compactors, at least 4,000 lbf or 18 kN, or a walk-behind vibratory roller. For larger jobs, a ride-on double drum roller compactor with 7,000 lbf to 9,000 lbf (30 to 40 kN) is suggested.

Soft spots - Sometimes during compaction, soft spots will become apparent, especially in heavy clay soils. In these cases, it will be necessary to remove the soil and replace it with suitable base material and compact it.

Table 5. Soil compaction equipment

		
<p>Rammer (7,000 lbs)</p>	<p>Medium Compactor (4,000 lbs)</p>	<p>Large Compactor (5,000 lbs)</p>

Base installation

Geotextiles - Installation of geotextile (filter fabric) over cohesive soils, i.e. clays or silts, is highly recommended. It is also a good option for use over soils that stay saturated for a large portion of the year. The fabric separates the “fines” in soils from the granular base and prevents them from migrating upward into their base, resulting in reduced base performance.

Geotextiles do not typically increase the load-bearing capacity of a pavement or a retaining wall. Rather, they retain the intended load-bearing capacity. They can be considered inexpensive insurance for extending the life of a compacted base. They do not allow for a reduction of base thickness.

Installing geotextiles around the perimeter will also prevent migration of adjacent soils into the base material. Cover the sides with fabric and fasten it to the ground with metal staples while removing all wrinkles. Excess fabric and exposed staples can be removed once the job is completed. When installing geotextiles, it is important to overlap them in the direction of the grade by placing the fabric at the lowest elevation first, and working up to the higher elevation next.

Base installation - Like soils, the right amount of moisture in the base material ensures reaching maximum density during compaction. Most crushed aggregate bases require about 5% to 6% optimum moisture content to reach 100% Standard Proctor Density. If the aggregate is dry, spread and moisten by spraying before compacting, allowing the water to penetrate to the full depth of base thickness.

When the aggregate is not at its optimum moisture throughout the lift thickness, there is a risk of compacting only the top portion of the base. As a result, it will not compact to maximum density and pavement settlement may occur in the future. In contrast, adding excessive water can create pumping of the aggregate under moisture content of the aggregate in the field, grab a handful and squeeze it tightly for a few seconds. After opening the hand, a good sign of the right amount of moisture is that the aggregate is sticking together with no water draining.

When installing the first layer of aggregate, it is important not to compromise the integrity of the geotextile with wrinkles. Place the first aggregate lift ahead of the loader wheels, ensuring that the equipment does not drive directly over the geotextile. This also reduces the risk of tearing or puncturing the fabric.

Quality and types of base materials



**3/4" <MINUS> CRUSHER RUN GRAVEL
(ASTM D 2940)**
(MAIN BASE MATERIAL FOR ROADS AND
HEAVY DUTY DRIVEWAYS).
IT IS A MIXTURE OF SAND AND 3/4" STONE.



**3/4" CLEAR CRUSHED STONE
(ASTM No.57)**
FOR PERMEABLE OR "OPEN-GRADED
APPLICATIONS."



**1/8" CLEAR CHIP STONE
(ASTM No.9)**
FOR LIGHT-DUTY PERMEABLE OR
"OPEN-GRADED APPLICATIONS SUCH AS
WALKWAYS, PATIOS AND FOR DRIVEWAY
BEDDING COURSE."

Permeable Bases

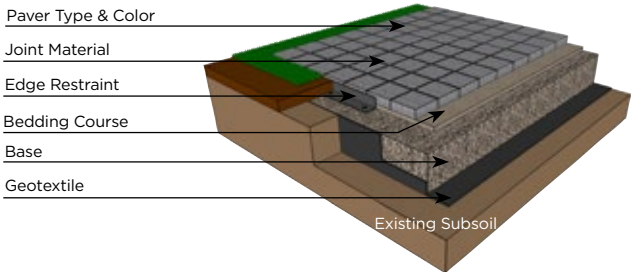
For over 40 years, Unilock has recommended specific base materials and installation methods to ensure that paver projects are built to last.

Unilock has traditionally recommended a main base of 6" - 14"/15.2cm - 35.6cm of $\frac{3}{4}$ " - crusher-run-gravel, along with a 1" thick bedding course of sharp concrete sand. This base structure is designed to ensure proper drainage and optimum load-bearing capacity in most soil conditions.

Decades of in-depth experience with permeable pavers have enabled Unilock to monitor and better understand the performance of permeable installations, both commercial and residential.

Based on the success of these projects, and the installation benefits that can be realized, Unilock now recommends that you consider using a permeable base model for your "non-permeable" paver installations, when appropriate. A solid paver base is made up of two very important parts:

1. *Base material that drains properly; and*
2. *Base material that has enough load bearing capacity for the type of use or traffic.*



The main drainage layer is comprised of graded $\frac{3}{4}$ " clear gravel, often referred to as, "fifty-sevens", which is an ASTM gradation. ASTM No. 57 is a clear graded gravel, consisting of stones averaging $\frac{3}{4}$ " in size.

If the area being filled is deeper than 16"/40.6cm, you may also decide to use a layer of ASTM No. 2's first, which is made up of stones averaging 2 inches in size. However, for most residential applications, No. 2's are not required, nor does it provide any additional benefit unless the area is subject to holding a large amount of water. The material used in the top layer of the permeable model, is the one inch thick bedding course, which uses a similar material but with a smaller sieve size, such as a No. 8, or No. 9.

Note: If ASTM graded gravels are not available from a supplier in your area, simply seek out a supplier who can provide for you a clear graded material,

with stones ranging from $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch, to $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch in size. (In some areas this material is also called HPB, or High-Performance Bedding.) Use only clean graded materials for maximum performance.

It is important that the perimeter soil does not leach into the clear stone base and eventually clog it. To prevent this, a strip of filter fabric is used. The fabric consists of a material that will prevent particulate from flowing through, but will allow any water to flow through.

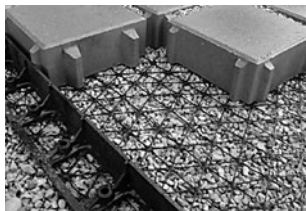
For the bottom of the driveway, a geo-grid or filter fabric is used to separate the clear gravel from the subsoil. Note: If filter fabric is used, it must be permeable.

Once the perimeter filter fabric is in and the base geo-grid is in place, the area is filled in with the “57’s”, or $\frac{3}{4}$ ” clear stone. Although clear stone cannot be compacted like regular crusher run gravel, it’s still important to make several passes with a compactor to “rattle” or “nest” the angular stone pieces. In order for proper vibration to take place, use only the bare plate with no paver protector attached. As with traditional base compaction, compacting in layers is best unless a large 2 ton reversible compactor is used.

Contractors generally find that working with clear material is much easier than working with other gravels and sands which easily become water laden after a rain. With clear stone, crews can continue to be productive in rainy or even freezing weather conditions.

After screeding is complete, the pavers are installed. Laying pavers on clear stone is easier than on sand, because divots from footprints are less likely to occur. Although it is always better to walk on the pavers that have just been laid, you can from time to time, step on the screeded surface. Do not turn your feet while stepping or you will shift the bedding material.

Any unrestrained edges must be secured. If the perimeter of the paver installation is not restrained by concrete walls, curbs or some other type of permanent barrier, a plastic or metal “spike-in” edge restraint is required. Edge restraint is typically spiked in using 10” or 12” spikes spaced 24” apart, but in permeable base materials it is recommended that you place a spike every 12”. A special edge restraint for permeable applications is also available and can be used; it comes with an attached mesh, which is placed under the perimeter stones to provide a secure edge.



The jointing sand procedure is not much different from standard pavers except that polymeric sand is not recommended for certain Unilock textures. See product specific notes at www.unilock.com. If the installation does not need to be permeable by definition, we recommend that you use coarse masonry sand and wash it in like an actual mortar grout. Then once the project dries, you can apply a joint sand stabilizer sealer. The benefit of using this method is that no settlement of the jointing material will occur after you leave the project. The other benefit is that it cleans the surface as you go.

Advantages of Permeable Bases:

- *Free draining aggregate - no frost movement in the actual base*
- *Almost self-compacting - less chance of settlement*
- *Can walk on the bedding course – carefully of course.*
- *Can be used for all product sizes*
- *Ideal for raised patios and steps – no sand washout possible*
- *Minimal chance of washout from downspouts*
- *Weeds have difficulty rooting and thriving in clear stone*
- *Insects cannot set up a home under the pavers*
- *Workable in virtually any temperature and inclement weather*
- *Easily placed by a StoneSlinger® Truck*

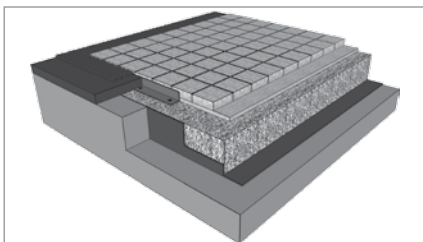
Important Notes:

- *Clear graded aggregates are not available everywhere*
- *Filter fabrics must always be used*
- *Combining 6 and 7cm products together may be challenging.*
- *Final compaction will not plane the surface if products vary in height more than 1/8"*
- *Rigid edge restraints such as Unilock walls or poured concrete are recommended over plastic edge restraints.*
- *Not recommended for repeated vehicle turning points.*

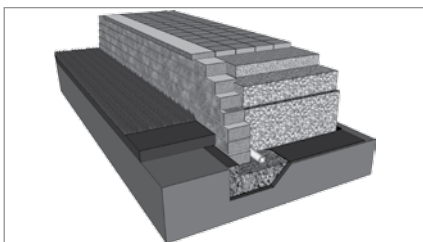
Permeable and Open-Graded Base Applications

Here are three of the most common permeable applications using open-graded base materials:

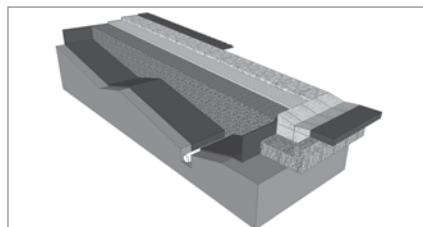
STANDARD PATIOS



RAISED PATIOS



DRIVEWAYS



Important Notes:

The most important thing is to ensure that the subgrade is sculpted to properly manage the possible build up of water below. Water must be diverted away from structures to appropriate grade exits or to drain pipes installed below grade.

A permeable geotextile separator must always be used between the subgrade and the clear stone.

Although 3/4" clear stone appears to be self compacting, compaction is still required to shake and lock the stones chips and to remove any unseen voids.

Base thickness

The thickness of the base is determined by traffic loads, soil strength, subgrade soil drainage, moisture and climate. A qualified civil engineer familiar with local soils and traffic conditions should be consulted to determine the appropriate base thickness for streets, industrial pavements and critical retaining wall installations.

Minimum base thickness guidelines that apply to most areas in North America are shown in tables 3 and 4 (Page 10). Greater thicknesses for the listed applications are often used in regions with numerous freeze-thaw cycles, expansive soils or very cold climates.

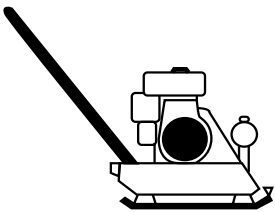
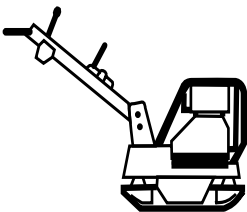
Base compaction

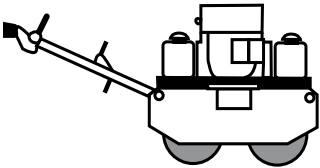
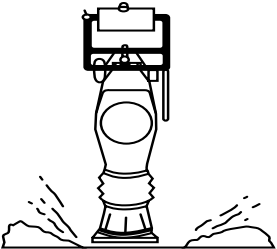
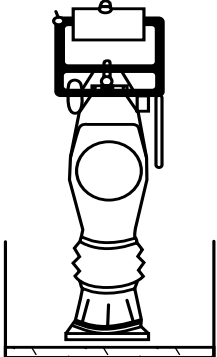
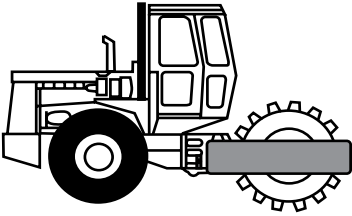
Rake and grade the base to string lines so that the base will compact to a uniform thickness and to the planned slope. This can be done with the backside of a grading rake (sometimes called a "lute"). The rake helps prevent aggregate segregation of larger particles from smaller ones, which reduces the compacted density. Garden rakes are not appropriate for spreading base aggregates.

Individual base lifts (layers) should be installed in uniform thicknesses to prevent waste and help ensure uniform density. A thickness tolerance of 3/4" (19mm) to 1/2" (13mm) is recommended for the final base thickness. Too much aggregate wastes time and money. Too little aggregate can create a base with reduced support.

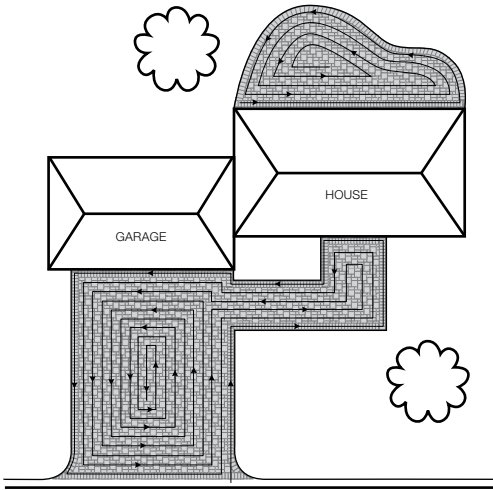
The total number of passes to accomplish full compaction to the required proctor density depends upon the weight and travel speed of the compactor. See table 7 for guidelines regarding maximum lift loads and minimum number of passes. A good field indicator that full compaction has been reached is that your compactor will begin to bounce slightly as opposed to the regular vibration.

Table 7: Compaction equipment

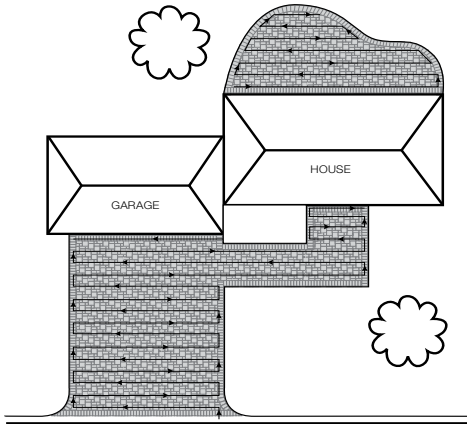
	
Small Compactor (3,000 lbs) - 3" (75 mm) maximum lift thickness. Minimum 3 passes per layer.	Medium Compactor (4,000 lbs) - 4" (100 mm) maximum lift thickness. Minimum 2 passes per layer.

	
<p>Large Compactor (5,000 lbs) - 6" (150 mm) maximum layer thickness. Minimum 2 passes per layer</p>	<p>Rammer (7,000 lbs) - (Unconfined) 6" (150 mm) maximum lift thickness. Minimum 2 passes per layer</p>
	
<p>Rammer (7,000 lbs) - Confined 8" (200 mm) maximum lift thickness. Minimum 2 passes per layer.</p>	<p>Vibratory Roller (9,000 lbs) - 8" (200 mm) maximum layer thickness. Mini- mum 2 passes per layer.</p>

When compacting soils or base materials, compact first in one direction (Perimeter Compaction), then compact the entire area again with passes perpendicular to previous ones (Lateral Compaction). Overlap should be about one third the width of the plate compactor base. (Figure 14)



Perimeter Compaction



Lateral Compaction

Figure 13. Compaction directions.

There are some indicators that the point of nearly complete compaction is being reached:

- When the compactor starts “crabbing” (moving in a sideways motion)
- The “spike test” - where it takes at least a three pound (1.5kg) hammer to drive an 8” or 10” (200mm - 250mm) long spike into the base.

Compaction Testing - For critical applications, base compaction should be tested on site by a qualified geo-technical technician with a nuclear density gauge. This compaction test device tests the Standard Proctor Density (SPD). It is a required test for most commercial projects. The minimum standard is 95% SPD.

After compaction, it is recommended to check all grades using a tape measure and some string lines. A simple way to check the final elevation of the compacted base is to run a grading rake under the string with a blade as thick as the compacted pavers and bedding material (usually about 3” or 75mm). This enables a quick visual check on the base height and slope as the rake is moved under the string (Figure 14).

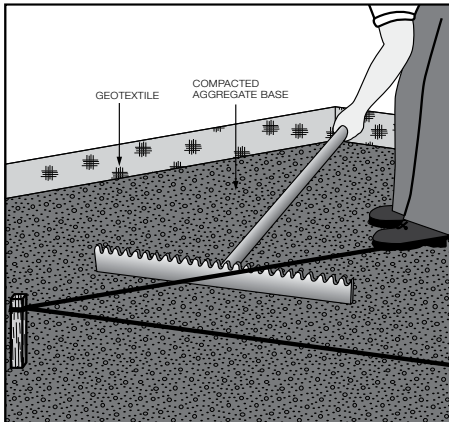


Figure 14. Use a grading rake for checking grades

Rolling a steel pipe or moving an aluminum screed bar across the surface is useful to establish where there are any small depressions on the surface. Spray some paint on those spots and fill them with additional base material. A maximum base surface tolerance of 3/8” (10mm) over 10’ (3m) is recommended (Figure 15).

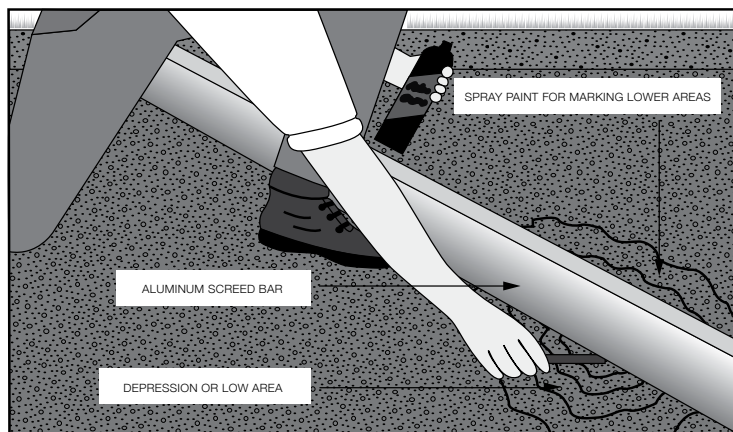


Figure 15. Check grades with a screed bar.

PAVER INSTALLATION

Edge Restraints

The purpose of installing an edge restraint is to prevent the horizontal movement of the pavers along the perimeter, maintaining the integrity of the pavement. There should always be an edge restraint installed along the entire perimeter or where there is a change in the pavement material, unless the pavers are being installed along a fixed edge, such as a building, a retaining wall, a curb or a planter. Restraints should also be selected, designed and installed to remain stationary under the occasional impact from wheels.

The base material should always extend beyond the restraint. A rule-of-thumb: the base should extend beyond the restraint by the same dimension as the thickness of the base material. For example, if the base is 8" (200mm) thick, then it should extend at least 8" (200mm) beyond the outside edge of the restraint. This contributes stability to the restraint and the pavement edge, especially in soils subject to frost heave. Soil backfill is never a suitable edge restraint, and edge restraints should never be installed on top of the bedding material.

Positioning edge restraints - The correct positioning of edge restraints is very important. It will determine the accuracy of the joint lines relative to various structures. Paver joint lines should either be parallel or be perpendicular to the largest abutting structure. In the case of a house, pavers should be installed parallel or perpendicular to the garage floor or main entrance.

There are two possible methods of positioning edge restraints. Use an existing fixed edge and then run a string line along the edge, sighting it at a further point, ensuring that it is relatively straight. The second method is to calculate an exact 90-degree line from a fixed edge (Figure 16).

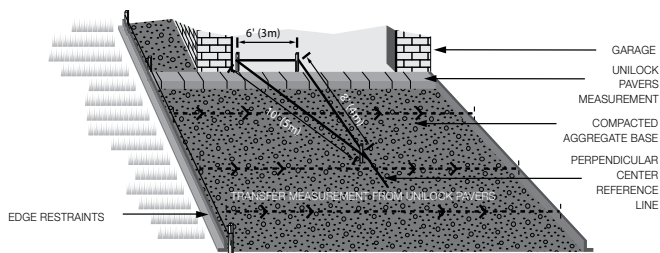


Figure 16. Edge restraint positioning.

Types and applications - Table 8 shows the types of edge restraints and their application. There are several types of edge restraints: Precast concrete, plastic, cut stone, aluminum, segmental walls and poured-in-place concrete.

Table 8. Application guide for edge restraints

APPLICATION	PRECAST CONCRETE & CUT STONE	ALUMINUM	PLASTIC	WALLS & POURED CONCRETE
Sidewalks - no vehicular traffic	√	√	√	√
Plazas - no vehicular traffic	√	√	√	√
Residential driveways	√	√	√	√
Crosswalks on asphalt or concrete streets	√		√	
Commercial/Industrial driveways	√		√	√
Parking lots	√		√	√
Streets - all types	√			√
Utility covers	√			√
Industrial flooring				√
Trucking terminals				√

Edge restraint installation

Edge restraints can be installed prior to the laying of the pavers, or they can be installed after the pavers are laid. When they are installed before, they may be used to control the thickness of the bedding material when it is screeded. Special attention should be given to the elevation of the pavers next to the restraints. Pavers require a finish elevation (after second compaction) of $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) above the top of the restraint. This allows for minor settlement of the pavers and surface drainage. It further minimizes potential tripping due to excessive wear on the restraining material.

When restraints are installed after the pavers and bedding material, the area of pavers is extended past the planned edge location. Then, the pavers are marked with a chalk line, plastic pipe or by using the edge material itself as a large ruler for marking. The marked pavers are then cut with a powered saw. The unused ends and excess bedding material are removed up to the cut pavers, and the soldier course and edge restraints are installed (Figure 25, Page 34).

For heavy vehicular traffic areas, when pavers are abutting another pavement, they should be placed against a concrete beam (Figure 17). The beam prevents horizontal creep of the pavers due to braking and turning tires.

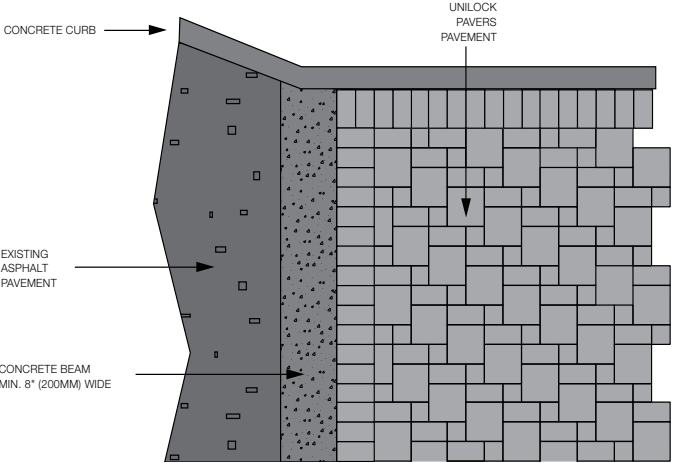


Figure 17. Concrete curb for heavy vehicular traffic areas.

After the edge restraints have been established, the final bed for the pavers to sit on must be prepared. This requires leveling the bedding material to a 1" (25 mm) depth.

Bedding material - The material recommended for the bedding course is coarse sand with a gradation as shown in Table 9 (concrete sand). The other acceptable bedding course that may be used is a clear 1/8" chip stone (ASTM No. 9 or 8 - availability may vary from region to region; check with your local aggregate supplier). This material contains no fines and is free draining. It should be used in combination with a base made up of 3/4" clear (ASTM No. 57) stone. Do not use materials such as limestone screenings, mason's sand or slag, which do not have the proper drainage and structural characteristics required. These materials generally have an excess of fine particles that will slow the drainage of water from the bedding layer, and it also lubricates the fines allowing it to be settled unevenly and rut under traffic.

Table 9. Gradation for bedding course material

SIEVE SIZE	PERCENT PASSING
3/8" (9.5mm)	100
No. 4 (4.75mm)	95 to 100
No. 8 (2.36mm)	85 to 100
No. 16 (1.18mm)	50 to 85
No. 30 (0.600mm)	25 to 60
No. 50 (0.300mm)	10 to 30
No. 100 (0.150mm)	2 to 10
No. 200 (0.075mm)	0 to 1

Bedding course installation

The evenness of the base surface should be checked with a straight edge before placing the bedding material. Sand should not be used to fill depressions in the base. The filled depressions will be reflected on the surface of the pavers within a few weeks or months, creating a washboard appearance.

Screeding guides - Screeding is the process of leveling the bedding material. This is typically done using a 1" to 1 1/2" (25-40mm) diameter or 1" to 1 1/2" square pipe or bar set on the compacted base. Using the top rail of chain-link fencing or heavy-wall electrical conduit works well as a guide for screeding because they can be joined to cover large areas.

To establish the exact level of the screeding guides, as shown in Figure 18, hold a concrete paver on the pipe. Adjust the height of the pipe until the top of the paver extends above the string line or an existing fixed edge by 1/2" (13mm). Be sure to maintain a consistent thickness of bedding material. Do not compensate for depressions in the base by adding more sand. Instead, add and compact more base material.

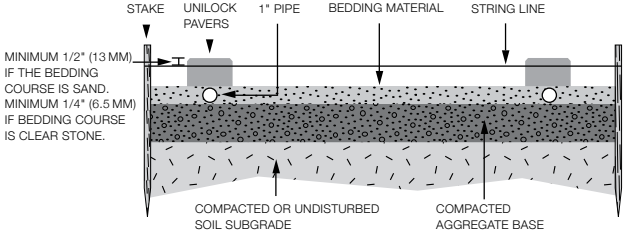


Figure 18. Set screeding guides

Once the screeding guides are placed, bedding material can be placed between them and roughly raked out over the area to be screeded. Drag a board over the guides to make a smooth surface. Always make sure that there is enough sand in front of the screed board. (Figure 19). Two people can easily screed a section 8' to 10' wide. One person can screed an area 4' to 6' wide.

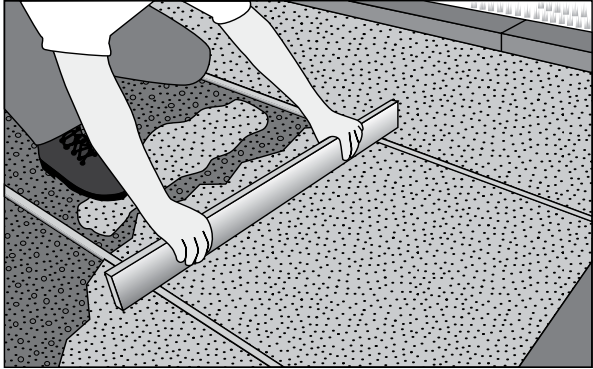


Figure 19. Screed bedding material on screed bars.

Mechanical screeds save time and reduce fatigue because they are pulled by a small loader. These screeds can increase productivity of the operation by three to four times. The screed rails are set on the base and checked with a transit level or string line. The height of each end of the screed can be adjusted to accurately obtain the correct depth of bedding material.

The next step is the installation of the pavers. This stage should proceed quickly and smoothly. Before opening the bundles, make sure you have read the bundle tag and that the correct quantity of product and the correct color is on site.

Color blending - When removing the pavers from the bundle, select pavers simultaneously from more than one bundle in a vertical fashion to mix the color efficiently over the entire installation. This applies to solid and blended colors.

Efficiency - Efficient handling of the pavers will affect the length of time taken to complete the job. Even though using a wheelbarrow or dolly to move pavers is a common practice, it is much easier to move the pavers with fork lifts or paver carts (Figure 20). Products that are packaged in sections allow them to be used to “peel” off stacks of pavers from the bundles (usually 7-10 pavers high) at once. These tools will significantly increase the efficiency of the installation process.

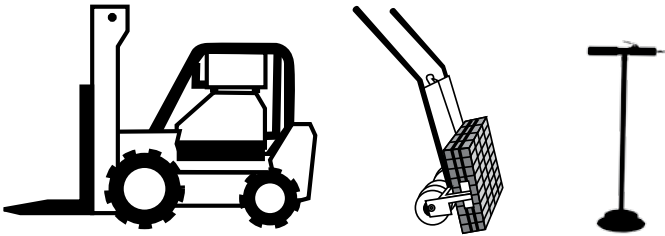


Figure 20. Fork lift and paver cart used to bring pavers to laying face.

Laying patterns - Unilock products can be laid in a wide variety of laying patterns and combinations. More than 185 paver hatch patterns are available at www.unilock.com. All patterns are grouped by system with several different patterns for each system included.

The shape of the pavers determines the range of laying patterns. Any pattern is suitable for pedestrian applications, like walkways, patios or pool decks. Running bond patterns can be used for residential driveways. It's important to always face the long lines perpendicular to the main traffic direction. Herringbone and random patterns are recommended in areas subject to continual vehicular traffic. They will give the maximum interlock and structural performance.

Manual installation

When installing the pavers, it is important to maintain consistent joint widths. Tight joints, with sand in them, will spread loads better than wide ones. Consistent joint widths also give a neat and orderly visual appearance. A 1/8" (3mm) gap is recommended.

When installing the pavers, do not slide them across the sand, but down the side of the previously installed unit. A build-up of sand between pavers will cause the alignment to go askew. Some pavers have spacers built into the unit that assist in maintaining the required 1/8" (3mm) gap between each paver.

Starting the first few rows requires attention to the order of placing the units. This establishes the rhythm and pattern for the remaining courses. Begin laying the pavers leading off from right-angle corner to minimize any required cutting. Crooked lines are not visually appealing, therefore always run string lines or snap chalk lines on the screeded sand in several directions every 3' to 5' (1 to 1,5) m to ensure that the pavers are all in alignment. Use a screwdriver to adjust their position, if required.

Starting from the middle of the pavement is the most recommended option (Figure 21). This is done for several reasons. First, pavers may flow onto the site faster if paving begins at the center of the pavement, rather than from a corner location. Second, by starting at the center, a wider laying face is possible. A wider laying face allows more people to place pavers at the same time. Finally, starting at the middle of the pavement may be necessary because there may be no perpendicular corners from which to begin the laying patterns.

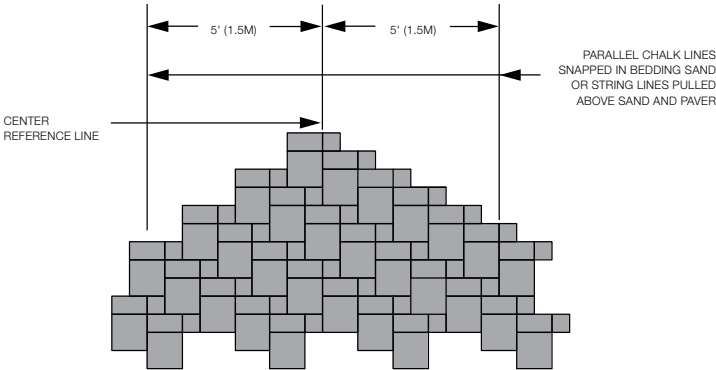


Figure 21. Parallel lines and center reference line.

Step-by-step manual paver installation

- If working with a fixed edge, install the soldier coursing first around the perimeter of the area. Then the body of the area can be installed.
- If there are any circles in the installation, they should be installed right after the soldier course. Then the body can be installed.
- Run string-lines on approximately 3' to 5' (1 m to 1.5m) intervals in order to maintain straight lines. Snapping a chalk line on the screeded surface also works very well and cannot move accidentally.
- Lay the pavers in the desired pattern, making sure that color blends are installed evenly
- Pavers should have approximately a 1/8" (3mm) joint between pavers. Built in spacer bars on the sides of the pavers is standard on most Unilock styles.
- Pavers that have just been laid may be walked on. Fill in any grooves left by the screed guides before laying the pavers. This can be done as you go.

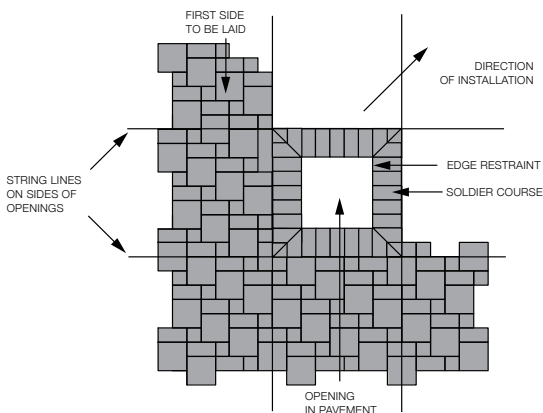


Figure 22. Paving around an opening or obstruction.

Openings or obstructions installation - For the installation of pavers around openings, like tree wells, man holes, planters and other landscape constructions, there must be an adequate edge restraint in place around the opening against which to place the pavers. This is typically plastic, steel, aluminum or concrete (Figure 22).

First place a perpendicular string or snap chalk lines on all four sides of the opening. Then, place a border of full-sized pavers (soldier course) against the edge restraint. Next, lay pavers on one side, then the other. Count the courses needed to surround the opening on each side. After that, fill around the remaining side of the opening. Finally, cut pavers to fit and fill against the soldier course around the opening.

Mechanical installation

In order to reduce the labor intensity of hand placing pavers, and to increase the production rate, mechanical laying machines have been developed. They are generally equipped with a clamping system that can lift an entire layer of pavers from a pallet or cube and place them accurately on the bedding material. This allows more than one square yard (one square meter) of pavers to be placed at one time.

A properly planned mechanical placement with a crew of four men can result in the placement of up 6,000 to 7,000 square feet (600 to 700 square meters) of pavers in an eight-hour working day. The use of mechanical equipment should be considered on any large project.

Shape, pattern, quality and color distribution are key consideration when deciding on pavers that are to be installed mechanically. For further information about this option, please contact your Unilock Representative.

Cutting

Most jobs with concrete pavers involve cutting. Pavers are typically cut along the edge of the pavement, around planters or drainage inlets or when there is a change of pattern. Where pieces need to be cut, this is best achieved by marking out long sections at one time.

Begin cutting infill pavers as soon as the installation is far enough ahead to allow room for cutting, thereby reducing the potential for lateral movement. Small pieces (less than 1/3 of a paver) should be avoided as much as possible. However, if very small pieces are required, use a wet-cut table saw. Always wear hearing protection, protective glasses, gloves and a dust mask when cutting.

Cutting tools

- *Hammer & Chisel.* Least accurate method for cutting small paving stone pieces. Mostly used to split retaining wall units and certain styles of paving units.
- *Guillotine.* Cutting with a guillotine is fast and dust-free, but it is not as accurate and does not allow for very small pieces. Guillotines produce acceptable cuts for “tumbled” products, where precision is not as noticeable.

- **Power Saws (Diamond Blade or Abrasive Blade).** (Figure 23) They are very fast and provide precision cutting and excellent mobility. However, they are very dusty. They are normally gas powered, with engines similar to those used for chain saws.

Since dust can be a significant problem, it is recommended that you use a water attachment when cutting. Do not allow dust or spray to settle on cars, windows, flowers, shrubs, etc. Some contractors set up temporary card-board or plywood walls to contain the spray. Some use vacuum equipment and a hose to collect dust right at the blade. A hand-held dry saw with a 12" (0.3m) blade can cut about a 4' (1.2m) radius.

- **Table Saws (Diamond Blade).** (Figure 24) They provide precision cutting, but lack mobility so can be time-consuming. Most saws can run either wet or dry. When water is used, it provides lubrication and reduces wear on the blade. If water is supplied to the saw, anticipating a nearby faucet in planning the job will save delays and money. If possible, use clean water and do not recirculate it as it will likely stain the pavers.

A by-product of cutting with a wet masonry saw is residue-filled water. This can stain pavers, so wash and remove the water from the pavers before it dries. Better still, cut in an area where drainage from the saw doesn't run on pavers or on nearby areas where there might be pedestrian or car traffic.

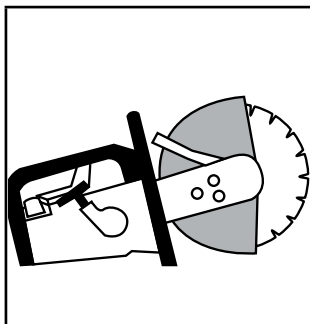


Figure 23. Cut-off saw

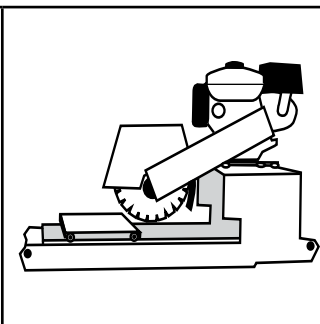


Figure 24. Table Saw

Marking Pavers for Cutting - There are basically two methods for marking pavers.

Method 1 (Figure 25) - The paver pattern is laid to the outer most edge, then a row of soldier course pavers is placed directly on top of the installed area in the same relative position that they will be in once the cuts are made. Then, using a chalk, marker or wax pencil, a mark is made along the edge of the soldier course or board. Cut the pavers and remove the pieces below. Place in the soldier course and the edge restraint for a perfect fit.

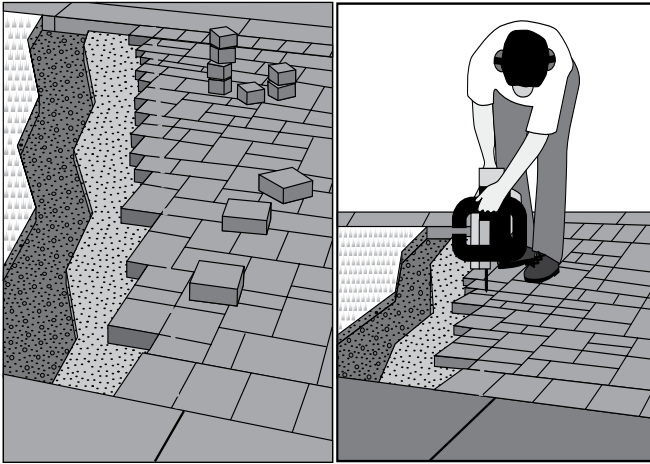


Figure 25. Marking and cutting pavers on site.

Method 2 (Figure 26) - The paver pattern is laid almost to the outer edge where the soldier course row begins. Next, the soldier course row of pavers is placed on the outer edge in their final position. Check to make sure that all curves are uniform and flowing and that straight borders are straight. The gaps left between the main pattern and the border will require that each individual stone is marked and cut. Using a chalk, marker or wax pencil, mark the pieces that need to be cut. Once the cut has been made, place the cut piece in place and continue on to cut the remaining stones.

Note: the remaining pieces that have been cut off can often be used for other cuts and should not be discarded as waste.

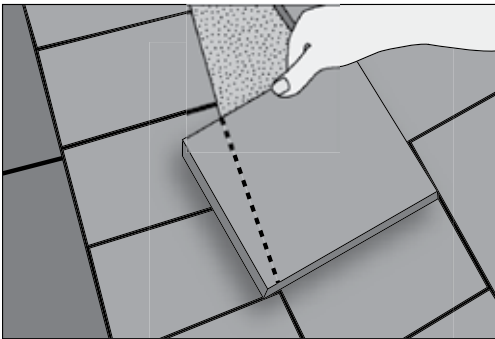
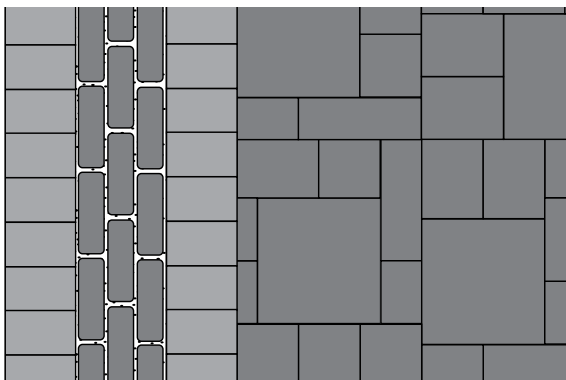


Figure 26. Marking pavers on site and cutting them on the table wet saw.

Borders and Accents

One of the great design opportunities that you have when using Unilock, is to design unique borders and banding that complement your home's color and trim style. EnduraColor™ Plus products are ideal for this because they are so unique in color and texture, that they take what might be a basic bland design to a whole new level without adding too much additional cost. You can even use borders and banding to create unique designs in the center of your driveway or patio. Be sure to check out www.unilock.com for lots of great ideas in borders and banding!



Compacting the paver surface

Compacting is very important for two reasons: First, it removes any slight height variations between the individual pavers, providing a smooth surface. Second and more importantly, it “sets” the pavers into the bedding course. Compacting forces aggregate particles from below up between the joints of pavers securing them from movement.

IMPORTANT: A polyurethane pad MUST be bolted to the bottom of the plate compactor to prevent scuffing of the paver surface.

Compacting procedure - Run the compactor in parallel rows across the surface of the pavers, making sure you have compacted all pavers. Make two or three passes with the compactor in different directions (Figure 28).

IMPORTANT: DO NOT put any jointing sand in before surface compaction. Doing so will prevent proper leveling. The surface must be free of debris or sand before compacting (Figure 27). Any sand or debris left on the surface will be ground into the paver surface and potentially damage the appearance.

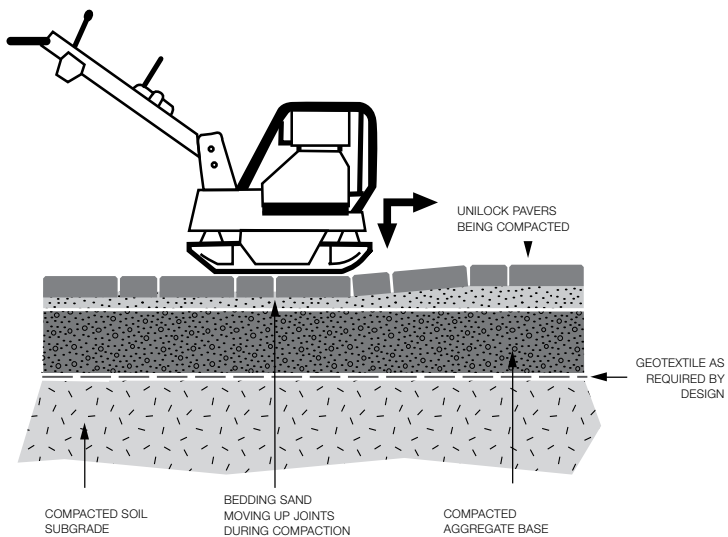


Figure 27. Pavers being compacted.

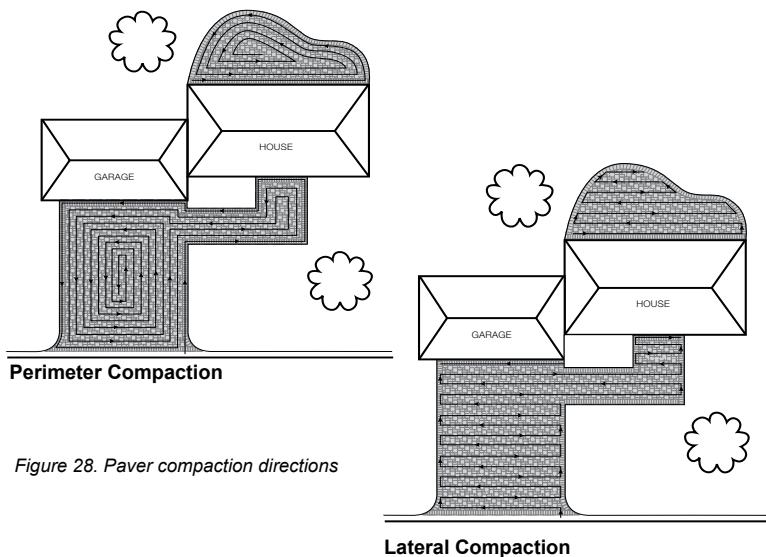


Figure 28. Paver compaction directions

Jointing sands and compounds

We recommend that you use Unilock Polymeric Jointing Sand or Unilock EasyPro™ Jointing Compound wherever possible.

PLEASE REFER TO UNILOCK PRODUCT DATA or go to www.unilock.com FOR SPECIFIC PRODUCT AND APPLICATION NOTES.

Unilock Polymeric Jointing Sand and EasyPro Jointing Compound are a special mix of sand and binders formulated for achieving optimum lock-up of paving stones and discourages weed growth and the penetration of insects. Visit www.unilock.com for specific instructions.

Sweeping sand into the joints between pavers completes the interlocking effect providing frictional resistance to vertical movement of individual stones. The sand also helps to distribute the load placed on the paved surface. Before sweeping in jointing sand, the surface should be checked for any damaged stones that may have appeared from the initial compaction. A final color distribution check should also be made. These stones should be replaced before sand is swept in. After the sand is swept in, the pavers lock-up and it becomes more difficult to remove them.

Installation - Spread a layer of jointing sand on the surface of the pavers and sweep it into the joints (Figure 29). Use a stiff bristle push broom. If you are using Unilock EasyPro Jointing Compound, the best installation tool will be a squeegee. **When using specialty sands or joint compounds, ALWAYS read the directions first prior to using. For permeable applications, a clear 1/8" chip stone is generally used (ASTM No. 9 or 8).**

Final compaction - After filling the joints, the pavers are compacted again using a plate compactor. This action will help settle the jointing sand into the joints and interlock the pavers. Follow the compaction pattern previously described in Figure 29.

After compaction, the entire area should be checked again to ensure that the joints are filled with sand. Apply more sand or compound into the joints until properly filled. Don't over fill the joint for best sand function and appearance.

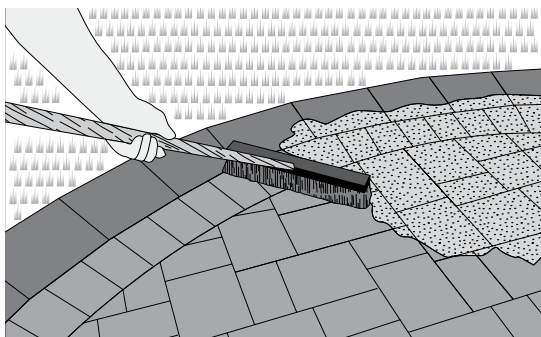


Figure 29. Jointing sand application

Cleaning and finishing

At the end of each day's work, all edge pieces must be cut and placed, all paver surfaces compacted, cracked or broken pavers replaced, joints filled with sand and the area compacted within 3' (1 m) of open unrestrained edges. Protecting the uncompacted, unrestrained edges with plastic or canvas during rainy weather is preferred to re-laying these areas after the storm.

As an alternative, after compaction and removal of excess sand, the surface may be cleaned and a liquid sealer or joint sand stabilizer may be applied to the pavement surface and joints. For more information on how to clean and seal paver pavements, refer to the Unilock Maintenance Guide on page 57 or visit www.unilock.com.

GRAVITY RETAINING WALL INSTALLATION

Base preparation

The basic installation procedures for all Unilock wall systems are very similar to each other. They are outlined below.

Grade changes - While preparing the base for walls and the grade changes, the excavation can be stopped so there is no need to bury more material than necessary (Figure 30). The step-up height is always equal to the height of the wall unit being used. Stepping the grade properly will save time and eliminate needless digging and reduce the amount of wall units required.

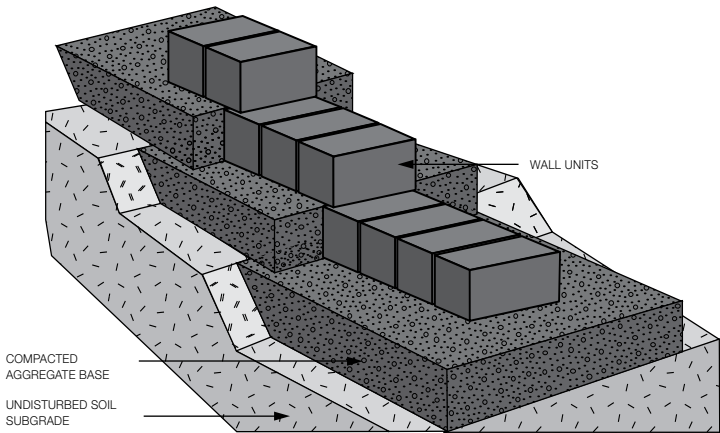


Figure 30. Stepped base for grade changes.

Filter cloth or geotextile - It is recommended that an approved filter fabric be placed between the existing soil subgrade and the new aggregate base. Plan for sufficient filter fabric to also separate the retained soils and/or clear crushed stone that later will be placed behind the wall.

Drain - Areas with greater than normal water runoff above or below grade will require different methods of directing the water away from the wall. A positive drain must be installed to alleviate any excessive water pressure that could affect the stability of a retaining wall. Outlets always must be planned prior to construction.

Drain placement options - The drain may be outlet through the wall face or connected to a positive outlet (sewer). In the case of connecting to a positive outlet, the drain should be placed at the lowest possible elevation and sloped at a minimum of 2%. At the rear of the base, allow the granular material to slope down on the sides towards the drain trench (Figure 31). In the area behind the base, place the approved drain tile (perforated drain with filter sock) on top of the filter cloth and minimal granular coverage.

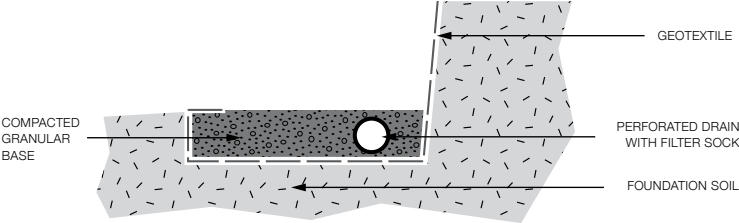


Figure 31. Drain tile placement.

Compaction - Compaction is the most important factor in constructing a stable retaining wall. It is critical that the existing ground remains undisturbed and that the added base materials is compacted to 98% Standard Proctor Density. Although hand-tampers and power-tampers are both acceptable for compaction, power-compactors are strongly recommended for most projects (Figure 32).

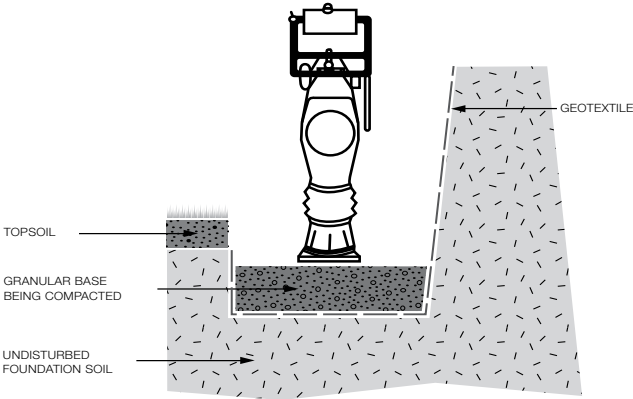


Figure 32. Base compaction

Installing the first course

It is important to start construction at the lowest elevation of the wall. If the installation has corners, it is recommended to start at the corners first. The other place to start a wall is next to a fixed structure that the wall will end at (e.g. basement foundation wall).

First course leveling - Position a level string line to mark the location of the first course. Then, the first course of units can be placed on the prepared base, making sure that the units are leveled front to back and left to right. Use the string line to keep the wall units straight and a standard carpenter level for leveling the individual units. Small amounts of coarse sand can be used to “fine-tune” the level of each unit (Figure 33).

When positioning the first row of units, it is important to take into consideration the setback of the units, as well as the final height of the installation. Determining the position of the first stone will impact the final outcome of the job. For setback walls, each additional row added will reduce the width of the backfill zone.

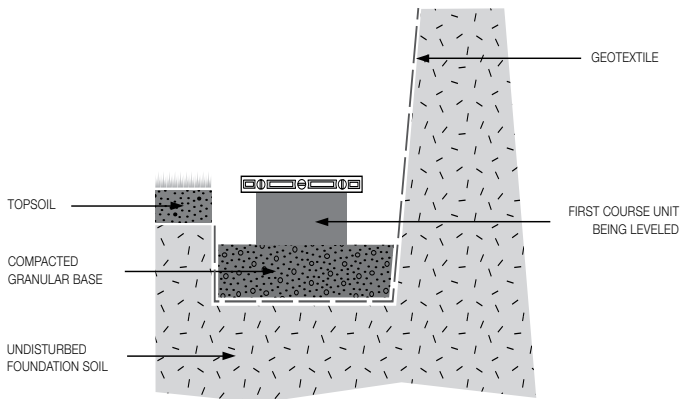


Figure 33. First course positioning and leveling.

Stack units

Sweep the top of the units to make sure there is no loose debris on the top of the blocks, preventing them from properly seating. Place the next course of units in a running bond pattern (offset $\frac{1}{2}$ unit) so that the middle of the unit is approximately above the joint between adjacent blocks below. This will require half units to be placed on alternating courses. When wall units have a built-in locking system, always slide them as far forward as possible to eliminate any slack in the channel.

Always get your wall units lined up near the actual wall so that the wall can be installed quickly. Stack only two or three courses at a time before backfilling.

Continue stacking units until desired height is achieved. Some wall units need to be split before they are used. Having the material split and ready before installation begins will increase productivity. Always take into consideration the dispersion of the color distribution in color blends, when selecting the next unit to place.

Backfill

It is recommended that you backfill every 12" (300mm) wall height. Proper backfilling is vital to the retaining wall's strength. Backfill must be placed behind the wall in maximum lifts of 6" (150mm) and compacted to a minimum density of 95% SPD.

No heavy compaction equipment should be allowed within 3' (1m) of the back of the wall. Only a hand-operated plate compactor can be used here. Over-compaction behind the wall facing will result in an outward rotation of the units and poor vertical alignment.

Coping unit

Some wall systems require coping units that cap the top of the wall. Once the wall units are in place, dry-fit all the coping units, then apply two beads of Unilock Concrete Adhesive, ensuring both surfaces are free of debris. Place the coping units firmly on top of the adhesive and apply pressure to secure. Follow adhesive installation guidelines.

Some coping units have the option of being "rock-faced". This is achieved using a mallet and a masonry chisel, or by using a guillotine.

Finish grading

To encapsulate the granular backfill zone and finish grading, the filter cloth is pulled towards the wall and a 6" (15 mm) layer of topsoil is placed (Figure 34). Slope the soil above and at the foot of the wall to ensure water will flow away from and not accumulate near the retaining wall. For other treatments, such as pavers, concrete or asphalt, care must be taken to ensure that heavy compaction or paving equipment remains a minimum of 36" (1m) from the back of the coping unit.

Wall ends - If the retaining wall does not start or end at a building (or other structure), a "return" into the bank must be constructed (Figure 35). Walls that follow the grade of a slope may not need a return as each course will either be built into the slope or follow the slope of the hill.

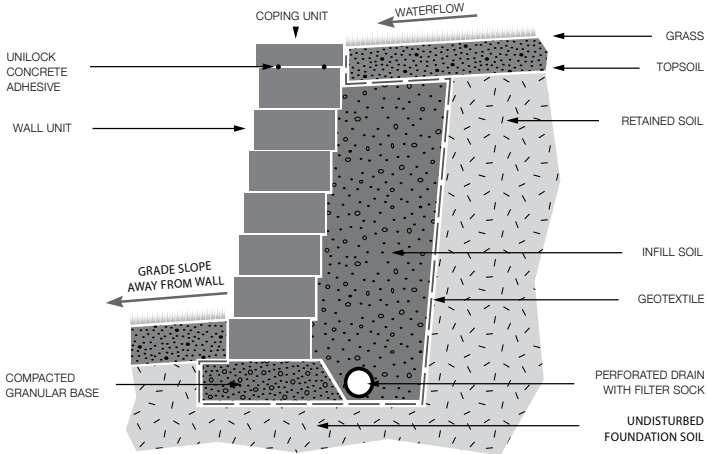


Figure 34. Encapsulate granular backfill and finish grading.

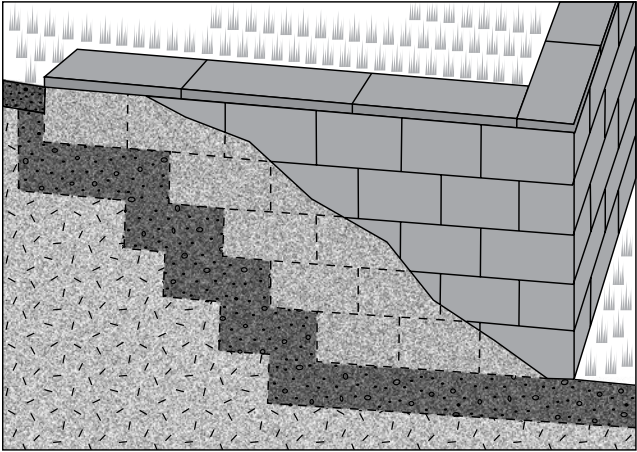


Figure 35. End of the wall should return into the bank.

REINFORCED RETAINING WALL INSTALLATION

Geogrid reinforcement

Geogrid reinforced wall construction is used to allow for the construction of walls beyond traditional gravity wall capabilities. When constructing these walls, additional steps should be followed.

Backfilling - Begin backfilling as described previously, up to the elevation of the first layer of geogrid reinforcement (Figure 36). Caution must be taken to ensure the allowable lift thickness is not exceeded and/or heavy compaction equipment is not operated within 3' (1m) of the back of the wall.

Ensure the geogrid reinforcement specified in the design matches the product on site. Cut the geogrid from the roll to the specified length, ensuring the geogrid is being cut perpendicular to the direction of primary strength. Ensuring the wall units are free of debris, lay the geogrid on top of the blocks to within 1" (25mm) of the face. Place the next course of wall units to secure the geogrid in place. Pull the geogrid reinforcement taut across the infill material to its full length and stake in place to maintain tension. The backfill material should be level with the back of the wall unit, allowing the geogrid to be laid out horizontally.

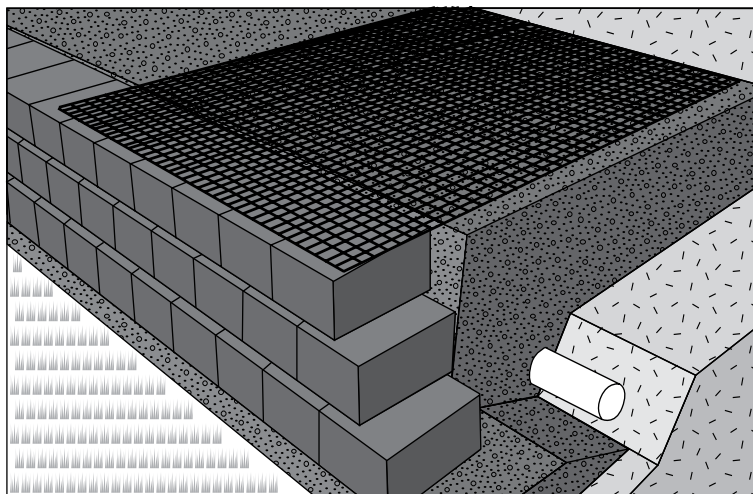


Figure 36. Geogrid reinforcement installation.

Backfill over geogrid

Backfill next lift of granular infill material on top of the geogrid reinforcement. Place the loose material at the front of the wall and rake it back away from the face. This method maintains tension in the geogrid during backfilling. Continue stacking units and backfilling until the next layer of geogrid reinforcement is reached (Figure 37).

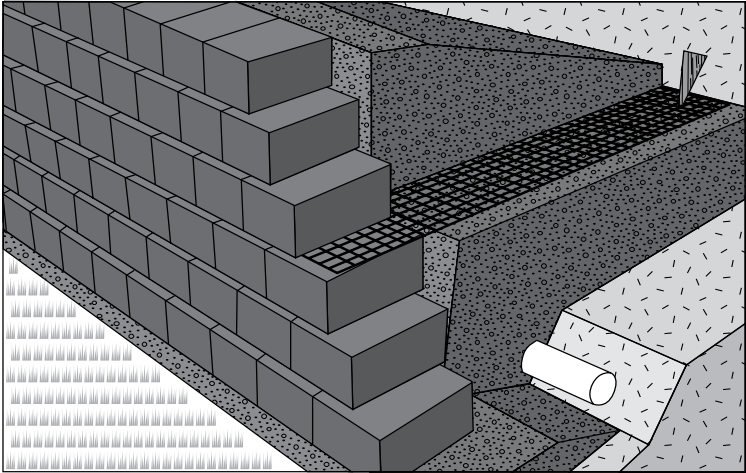


Figure 37. Backfilling over geogrid.

Splitting

The tools required for manually splitting paver or wall units are either the hammer and chisel or the guillotine.

Hammer and chisel - When working with the hammer and chisel, score the unit being split along an imaginary line running all the way around until the unit comes apart (Figure 38). Use even and consistently weighted blows for best results. When the unit is completely scored, use a heavy blow to finish the split. To split coping or wall units, be sure that the units are sitting level. Make sure there are no stones or pebbles underneath the unit. Split the double unit along the splitting groove provided. Always score the short sides first.

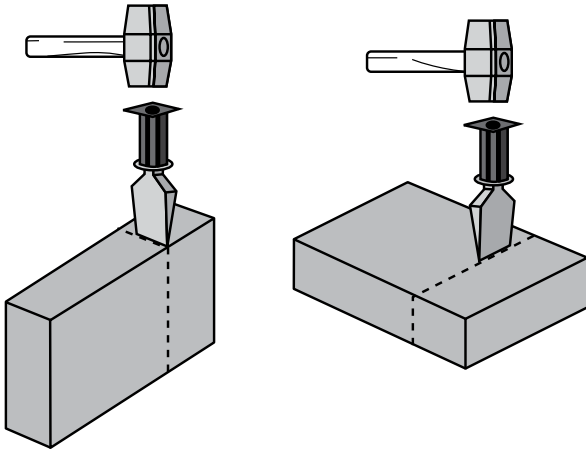


Figure 38. Score wall or paver units first to achieve uniform splitting.

The guillotine is a more accurate method to split paver or wall units (Figure 39). Simply place the unit between the two blades and adjust the blades until they touch the surface of the concrete. Pull down on the handle to split units. Always wear protective goggles when splitting concrete.

Note: Some units may be too large for a guillotine cutter. Check your guillotine capabilities.

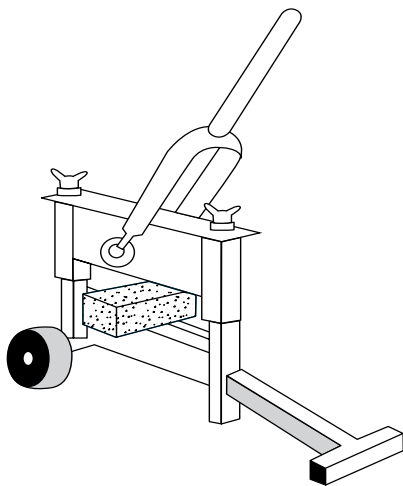


Figure 39. Guillotine gives a fast dust-free cut.

Corners

Outside corners

Generally all Unilock Retaining Wall Systems have manufactured corner units. They are normally precast as a left and right unit. Both must be used to create an interlocked corner. With some Unilock wall systems. Unilock Concrete Adhesive becomes the locking mechanism between corner units.

Installation - Units are placed on one course leading to the corner. The corner unit is positioned so both rough faces (if there is one) will be exposed in the final construction. Then, standard units are placed on the same course of the adjacent wall. A corner unit from the other direction is placed on the next course to interlock the corner. More standard units need to be placed to complete the course on both walls. The process is repeated as required (Figure 40).

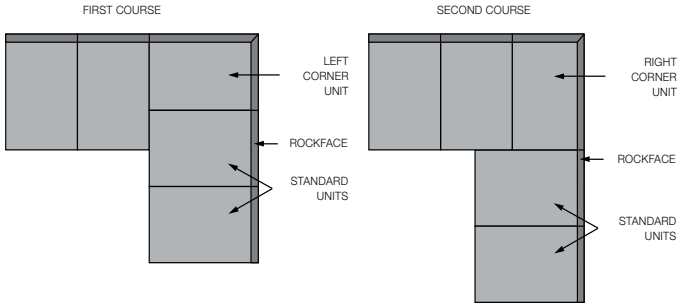


Figure 40. Outside corner typical installation

Inside Corners

Inside corners are required where two walls intersect, and the angle between the faces is less than 180 degrees.

Installation - The installation starts by placing units on one course leading to the corner. A corner unit is placed so that the small face will be hidden behind the final construction. On some corner units, it may be necessary to smooth out the split face within $\frac{2}{3}$ of the end. Standard units are placed as shown in Figure 41. The back of these units will extend past the end of the corner unit. A corner unit from the other direction is placed on the next course to interlock the corner. More standard units are placed to complete the course. The process is repeated as required.

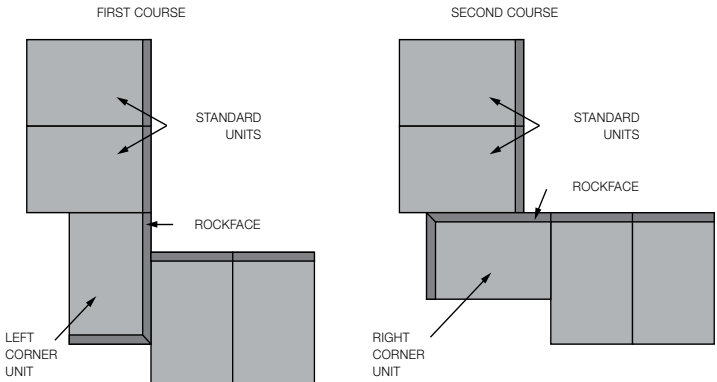


Figure 41. Inside corner typical installation

Inside curves

Each Unilock wall system has its own minimum radius for an inside curve. Check specific product information. Smaller radii than specified can be achieved, but this will require cutting.

Installation - The inside curve is constructed using standard units (Figure 42). The faces of the units must be placed tightly together. Depending on the desired radius, small gaps should be placed at the back. The smallest radius will occur on the bottom course. Each additional course will result in an increase by the wall setback in the radius. Also, the vertical joints will start to line up on successive courses, making it necessary to place half units at random locations.

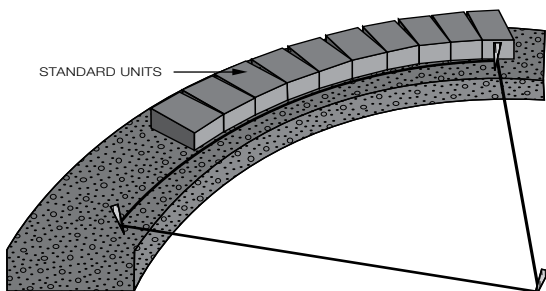


Figure 42. On inside curves, the radius will increase with height.

Outside curves

Almost all Unilock wall systems have tapered units to construct outside curves (Figure 43). The minimum radius for this type of curve varies among each system. Refer to specific product information. Some wall systems have units that are extra tapered; they can be used to create a tighter radius. Smaller radii can be achieved, but this will require cutting.

Installation - An outside curve must be constructed using tapered units. Depending on the radius of the curve, it may be necessary to have small gaps between the back corners of adjacent units. Large radius walls can be created by adjusting the placement of the units. Coping units will have to be cut to finish the wall.

In preparation for the bottom course, it is important to consider that the radius of some wall systems will decrease by the wall setback every course. Therefore, the smallest curve will result on the uppermost course. Also, the vertical joints will start to line up on successive courses, making it necessary to place half units at random locations

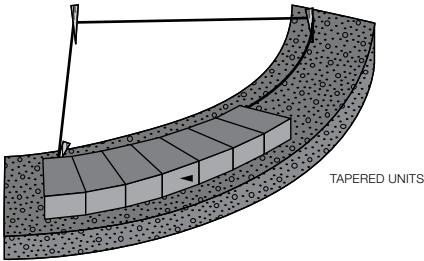


Figure 43. For outside curves, the radius will decrease with height.

Steps

The principles used to build walls and corners are required to apply when constructing steps. Standard or tapered wall units act as risers and coping units act as treads (Figure 44). Coping units from large wall systems can also be used as steps. They can be created in a number of different configurations. In all cases, compaction is critical to stability of the steps.

Steps require important planning. Outdoor steps should not be more than 6" (15cm) in height or less than 4" (10cm). The lower the step, the deeper the tread should be. The ideal step configuration should be close to the diagram shown below.

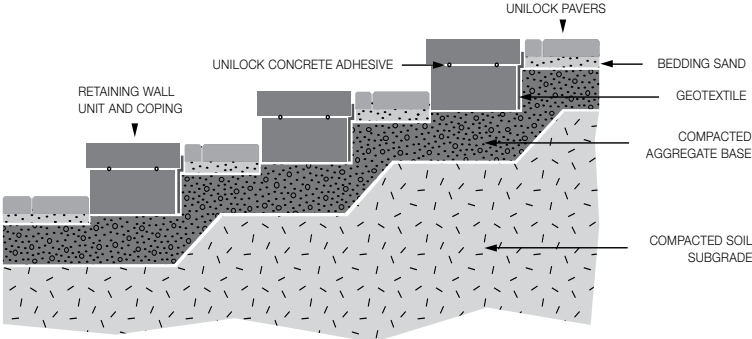


Figure 44. Typical steps installation.

Most common configurations

L-shaped and pyramid steps - These structures are simply a wall with an inside and outside corner, and the course of the wall between the two corner steps back at 12" (300mm) per course. After an entire riser is placed, the coping stone is then positioned on top and secured with Unilock Concrete Adhesive. On the system, some trimming of the locking key on the outside corner unit will be necessary on each course. The next riser is then positioned so the face of the unit is in contact with the back of the coping stone on the lower step. All proper backfill and compaction procedures must be followed. Be sure to place filter fabric along the back of the units to prevent washout of the fill. For extra stability, an extra course of units should be placed under the bottom step and adjacent walls (Figure 45).

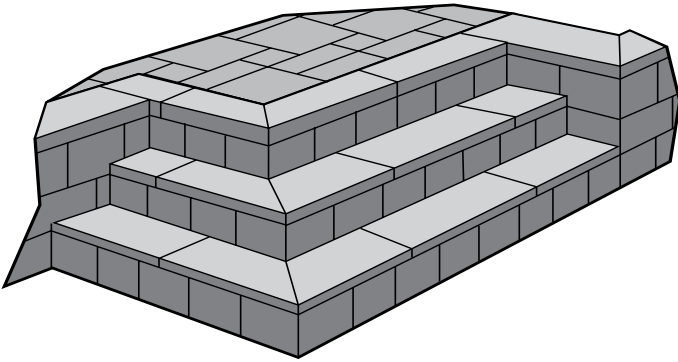


Figure 45. L-shaped and pyramid steps.

IMPORTANT: The ideal base material for steps, raised patios etc., is to use 1/4" clear chip stone (no fines). When clear chip is used, you do not have to compact very much and the possibility of future settlement is minimized.

Protruding steps - This structure is constructed in the same manner as the L-shaped steps, one course at a time. However, in this arrangement, it is necessary to construct two inside corners and two outside corners. The sidewalls can be built in either battered or vertical arrangement. If the sides batter toward each other, each riser will be narrower than the course below (Figure 46).

Inset steps - The risers in this type of step are best constructed so that they are independent of the sidewalls. The foundation for the sidewalls can be stepped up (see grade changes on page 35), but the side of the riser units must be in contact with the face of the units in the sidewall. The second phase is to install the risers. The first units must be placed on the same foundation elevation as the sidewalls. A unit will have to be cut to make each riser fit between the sidewalls. All proper backfill and compaction procedures should be followed. Be sure to place filter fabric along the back of the units to prevent washout of the fill.

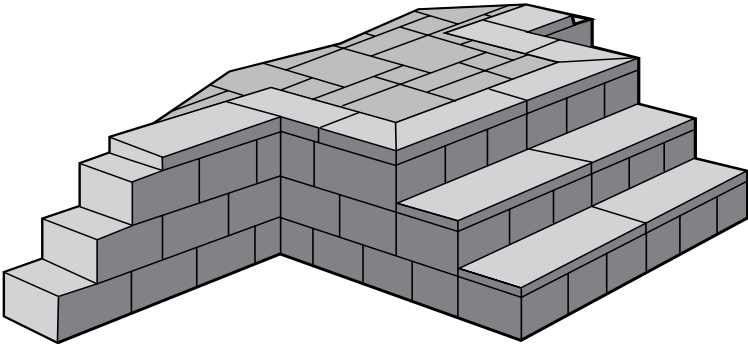


Figure 46. Protruding steps

The coping is then cut, positioned and secured with Unilock Concrete Adhesive. Successive courses are then placed. If the sidewalls are being built battered (with a setback), they will slope away from each other by the “system specific setback” per course. In this case, each riser will be wider than the course below (Figure 47).

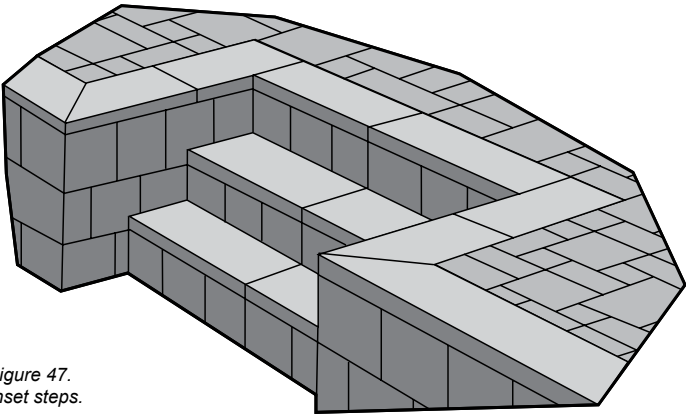


Figure 47.
Inset steps.

Steps with infill landings - The construction of steps with infill landings is no different from the construction of steps without landings except for the positioning of the higher steps. Once the first step is installed, lay a few pavers in the appropriate pattern to determine the best position of the next riser. This will minimize cutting the pavers. Make sure the pavers are 1/2" (13mm) above the height of the coping when installed, so they can be tamped down to the level of coping (Figure 48).

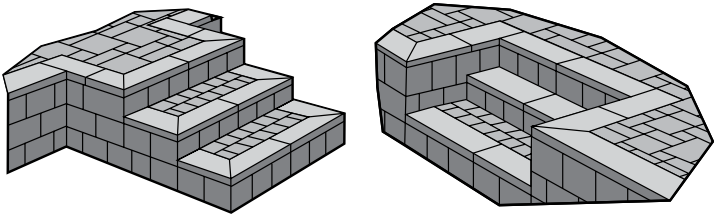


Figure 48. Steps with infill landings.

Large coping unit steps - These structures are basically constructed with coping units from large wall systems. After the first riser is placed with a single coping unit, the granular material at the back of the first step is placed at the same top elevation after compaction. The second riser is then positioned so the face of the next coping unit is in contact with the back of the coping stone on the lower step. Repeat the previous stages to finish the steps as required. All proper back-fill and compaction procedures must be followed (Figure 49).

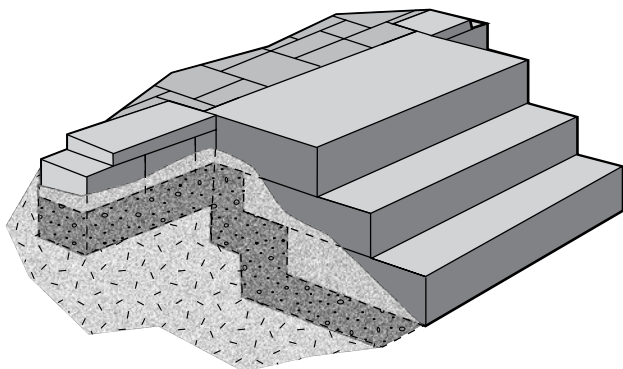


Figure 49. Siena Stone® coping unit steps.

Steps installation tips

- It is highly recommended that you use 1/8" (3mm) clear chip stone infill material when constructing steps. This will add drainage, prevent settlement and save you time in compacting.
- Leveling for steps is done the same way as it is done for building retaining walls
- Always level to right and from front to back. Specialty levels are available for some products.
- Units may need to be cut in order to fit around obstacles.
- Any lighting planned in steps or walls should be installed early on
- As with raised patios and walls, always "dry-fit" the coping before gluing them down.
- Placing a filter fabric behind the steps will prevent sand from seeping between the joints and help in preventing settlement.

- Before gluing the coping, always clean the surface with a small broom. The area should be clean and dry.
- Fill in the area behind the steps with base material and compact, using a hand tamper. Be careful when compacting that you do not deflect the wall units out of alignment.
- When constructing infill steps, temporarily lay a row of pavers in order to locate the position of the next step.
- The alignment and positioning of steps is critical. Constantly check measurements as you go.
- To miter corners, mark out an equilateral triangle on the end of a coping unit, and then cut it with a masonry saw.
- Coping may need to be mitered or “rock-faced”, depending on the design of the job.
- After the top step riser is installed, the coping is fitted and glued.
- The steps are completed by installing pavers in the areas behind the steps, using the procedures as described in the paver installation section.

Planters

Planters are constructed similar to steps and walls (Figure 50). Low planters, fewer than 12" (300mm), can be filled directly with topsoil. Larger planters need to be filled up half way with gravel, then covered with filter fabric, and then filled with soil. Giving a soft compaction to the soil will prevent settlement of the plants and soil level later.

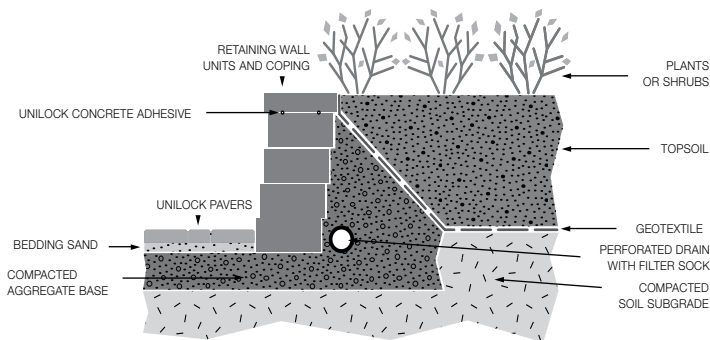


Figure 50. Typical planter application.

Pillars can be constructed with several of Unilock's wall systems. It is like building a retaining wall with only corner units. The base required depends on climate and local building codes. We recommend two courses minimum of wall units below grade on a 12" (300mm) base of crushed gravel (Figure 51).

Before construction begins, be sure to place in an approved electrical cable if a lamppost is being constructed. Local building codes for buried cable requirements must be followed. Depending on the style of the wall unit, some cutting of the wall unit may be required. Each course needs to be glued. The top of the pillar can be capped using coping units. Glue them securely to the top using Unilock Concrete Adhesive. Once the adhesive is dry (24 hours), the light can be connected and mounted.

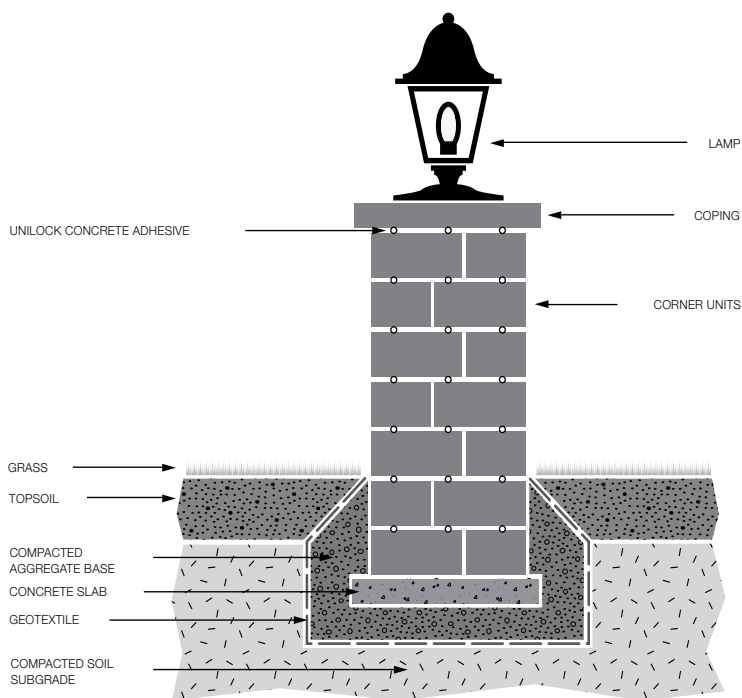


Figure 51. Typical pillar installation

When correctly installed and maintained, all Unilock products will provide a durable and pleasing surface for years to come. However, like many other construction projects, periodic maintenance will preserve the serviceability, beauty and integrity of the installation.

The joints between paving stones are undoubtedly the most vulnerable areas of any paving stone installation. Depending on the climate and amount of use, even the most expertly installed patio may require attention to the joints at some time in its life.

When using a power wash tool or garden hose to clean the paved area, the water should be directed at the surface at an angle not greater than 30 degrees and across the diagonal (i.e. not parallel to the joints as the water can be harsh and break up the jointing material).

Any cleaning product used must be thoroughly rinsed from the surface and channeled to suitable drainage points. Once the area has been cleaned, it should be inspected to ensure the integrity of the sand joint and any eroded joints should be re-sanded as necessary.

Cleaning

A regular cleaning routine using a stable broom and a good detergent, followed by the application of a weed preventative will help maintain the beauty and keep the splendor of any paver installation. We suggest that you follow our recommendations outlined below:

Cleaning is also an essential step in preparation for sealing concrete pavers. Prior to cleaning, the area should be inspected for any cracked or broken units. These should be replaced. Adjacent tree branches, shrubs and vegetation should be pulled back or covered to protect from overspray of cleaning solutions. Protective clothing and goggles should be worn when working with acid-based solutions.

Consider where the cleaning fluids will drain. They should drain across the pavement and not onto the grass or vegetation. Do not let silt or cleaners stand in low spots as this may strain the pavers. Be sure to rinse these areas thoroughly. Automatic sprinkler systems should be turned off during cleaning and sealing operations.

When using all cleaning solutions, and especially those containing acids, a small, inconspicuous area should be cleaned to test for surface and color reaction. Acid cleaners will dissolve a thin layer of cement on the surface of the pavers, so the color of the pavement may change slightly. Always follow label directions for use, application, precaution and first aid. ALWAYS REFER TO MSDS. Contact 1-800-UNILOCK or visit www.unilock.com, if you require a copy.

An efficient method of overall cleaning is high-pressure spray. Some systems mix water and a cleaner together in the spray. Care should be taken to not blow or wash the sand from the joints. Sand will remain in the joints if a wide spray nozzle is used and the angle of the spray is kept from directly penetrating the joints. As with a cleaning job, a small area should be tried first to test the result of the spray. Never spray so close to the stone that you damage the appearance of the surface.

Grease and oil stains

Oil will penetrate readily into a paved area, but will not stain if any spillage is removed promptly with an absorbent material (e.g. paper towels or cloth). The spillage should be soaked up, not rubbed, as this will spread it over a large area, driving the stain deeper into the concrete.

Unilock Oil & Dirt Remover - Is the most effective product available for removing oil spots from paving stones and concrete. Unilock Oil & Dirt Remover dissolves, dislodges and encapsulates oil to ensure thorough cleaning, without leaving any oily film after rinsing. Always follow label directions for use, application, precaution and first aid.

Efflorescence on concrete

Efflorescence is naturally occurring calcium salt that sometimes appears on the surface of concrete-based building materials and clay products. As the cement and water chemically react together, calcium hydroxide is produced. As the concrete dries, the calcium hydroxide reacts with the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to produce calcium carbonate, which manifest as a white solid. Repeated exposure to wetting and drying accelerates the “wicking” of the calcium to the surface.

The occurrence of efflorescence in the pores of the concrete can lead to the appearance of white patches on the surface or an overall lightening of the product, which is often mistaken for the product fading. Although the appearance of efflorescence can be worrying, the effects of efflorescence are purely aesthetic and do not alter the strength or durability of the concrete pavers. This normally goes away naturally after a season of rainfall. It is possible to accelerate its removal by washing with Unilock Efflorescence Remover.

Unilock Efflorescence Remover - is specially formulated to dissolve efflorescence and remove ground-in dirt on paving stones and concrete, without discoloring or damaging surfaces. It cleans evenly, and enables the sealant to better penetrate the pavers. Always follow label directions for use, application, precaution and first aid.

Rust stains

Rust stains arise from water running over oxidizing (rusting) metal objects and then staining the surface.

Unilock Rust Remover - Cleans rust from paving stones and concrete, without discoloring the surface. Short-term stains caused by metal objects sitting on the surface can be easily removed with this cleaner. Rust stains caused by metal scrapings from equipment such as snow removers may be difficult to remove. It is recommended that Efflorescence Remover be used after cleaning rust stains, so that all areas will have a more uniform appearance from cleaning. Always follow label directions for use, application, precaution and first aid.

Tar, rubber and paint stains

Unilock Paint, Tar & Rubber Remover - Will dissolve paint, tar and even chewing gum from pavers, concrete and masonry. Often used to clean high traffic areas where vehicles turning sharply may cause unsightly tire marks. This cleaner works best when allowed to soak into the stain for 5 to 10 minutes prior to rinsing. Use the cleaner a second time if necessary. This product will dissolve sealer, making re-sealing necessary. Always follow label directions for use, application, precaution and first aid.

Sealing

Sealants can inhibit staining and enhance the color of concrete pavers. They are useful around pools, BBQ's, driveways, trash receptacles and other areas subject to stains, and where oil dripping may occur. Sealers are also used to stabilize joint sand.

Applications of Sealants - Concrete pavers must be subjected to repeated exposure of moisture and evaporation prior to cleaning and application of sealers. Repeated cycles of moisture and evaporation will cause efflorescence near the surface to come to the surface of the pavers. All dirt, oil and efflorescence must be cleaned prior to sealing.

The cleaned surface must be completely dry prior to applying sealers. If the surface is not dry, or there is efflorescence under the pavers (i.e. in the sand, base or soil), sealed pavers will draw the efflorescence to the surface. The applied sealer can become cloudy and diminish the appearance of the pavers. Sealers can be applied with a foam hand roller if the area is small (under 400 sq. ft or 37 sq. m.). For larger areas where a more efficient application is needed, a low-pressure sprayer is recommended. Follow the instructions for the best method and protective gear to be worn during the job. Block the area from traffic once the sealer is applied until the sealer is completely dry. Sealers may require re-application after a couple of years.

Solvent and water base protective sealer

Unilock Water Base Protective Sealer - It is a thermoplastic acrylic emulsion, whitish in color in liquid state, it becomes clear when dry. Since it contains very little solvent, it does not emit unpleasant odors, and is therefore ideal for interior applications. It gives a satin finish, which practically does not affect the original color of the concrete surface.

Unilock Solvent Base Protective Sealer - It is a transparent resin that is specially designed to protect concrete pavers, slabs and other concrete surfaces. It intensifies the color of the pavers or slabs and gives them a semi-gloss finish.

Both types of Unilock protective sealers penetrate the concrete deeply for maximum effectiveness and durability. Sealers facilitate maintenance by reducing oil and dirt penetration. Neither protective sealer will peel, discolor or make the pavement slippery. They resist the elements (freeze-thaw cycles, sun, snow, rain, etc.) as well as de-icing salts and products.

Joint sand stabilizer and paver sealer

Unilock Joint Sand Stabilizer & Paver Sealer is dual-functioning. It is a clear microporous acrylic emulsion designed to protect the surface while bonding the joint sand in place. Its superior penetration and adhesion properties keep joint sand in place, preventing erosion, weed growth and insect infestation. It also reduces oil and dirt penetration, which makes cleaning easier. By stabilizing the joint sand, you also prevent sand from tracking into the house or pool. Once set, it remains flexible, allowing it to accept the movements of pavers and slabs in varying climatic conditions. This product will not peel or discolor. Its water-based formulation makes it easy to apply and odor-free. This product contains very little solvent, making it an environmentally friendly product. **To achieve proper stabilization with the sealers, the joint sand must be dry to have maximum effectiveness.**

Specialty Joint Sands and EasyPro™ Jointing Compound

The flow of rainwater or other sources may cause sand to be washed out of the joints. Therefore it is important that these joints are topped off with jointing sand to prevent the pavers from moving independently. To prevent this from re-occurring, it is strongly recommended that paving joints be filled with *Unilock Polymeric Jointing Sand* or *Unilock EasyPro* Jointing Compound. These sands are ideal for pool decks and sloped driveways.

PLEASE REFER TO UNILOCK PRODUCT DATA FOR SPECIFIC PRODUCT AND APPLICATION NOTES.

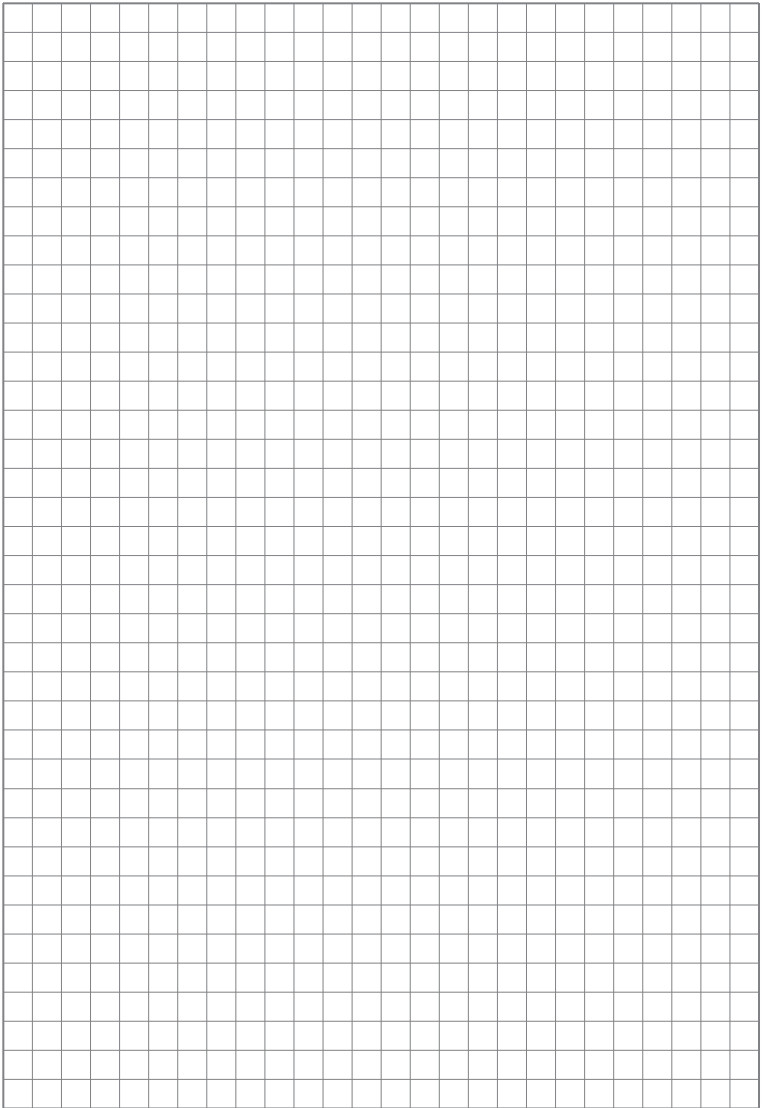
Specialty Sands from Unilock are a mix of graded sand and binder, especially formulated for the filling of narrow or wide joints between pavers. Unlike regular sand, this sand resists insect infestation, weed growth and erosion caused by rain, frost, wind, suction, etc. It is ideal for stabilizing sloped installations, such as driveways, patios, pool, decks, pedestrian ways, parking lots, roadways, etc. Learn more at unilock.com

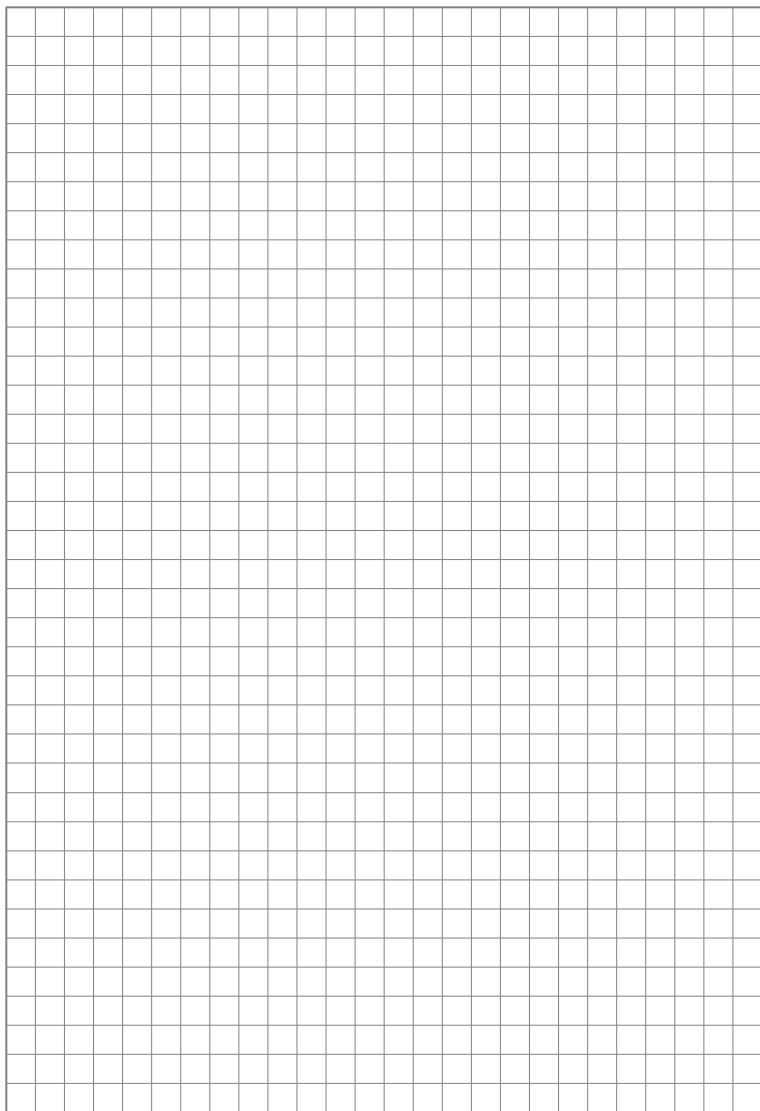
This product allows for some movement of the pavers without loss of the jointing sand. It is applied dry and hardens after moistening.

Use of chemicals & acids

When using chemicals for the cleaning of paving stones, the manufacturer's instructions should be carefully read and strictly adhered to. In general, the following precautions should be taken:

- When using chemicals, protective clothing such as gloves, goggles, boots and overalls should be worn.
- Proper ventilation is required to confined spaces when using chemicals.
- When using any chemicals, care must be taken not to damage, contaminate or stain any adjoining material.
- When diluting acids, ALWAYS add acid to water and not water to acid.
- Any clothing that is contaminated with chemicals should be disposed of safely.
- Care must be taken to protect personnel operating in the area of the cleaning from an injury or hazard created by the cleaning.
- Care must be taken in the disposal of any runoff material.
- Empty containers must be disposed of at your local household hazardous waste return facility.





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