INSTALLATION AND PATTERN GUIDE FOR CONCRETE PAVERS
Ideal’s Stones with Style™ are beautiful and easy to install. The many styles, shapes, and rich colors create distinctive patios, walks, driveways, and pool decks that will bring you years of enjoyment.

Most paving skills are within your reach. Simply follow the steps we have shown. We’ve even included some helpful hints that the professionals use. With a little effort and determination, you can achieve beautiful do-it-yourself results. Let’s get started!

Planning

Careful planning is essential to ensure your project goes smoothly. Start by reviewing our Come Home to Style catalog for ideas. It will help you visualize what your project might look like in relation to your home and site amenities. Then sketch out a few designs on graph paper. When you have finished your plan, finalize all of the dimensions and note any existing structures, such as your home, stairs, or other paved areas.

While you probably have a pretty good idea of the style and color pavers you want, visit the Ideal Authorized Dealer in your area to make your final selection from actual product samples. Show them your sketch and discuss the shape and pattern you’d like to use, keeping in mind that some shapes and laying patterns require less cutting than others. They will help you determine the proper amount of pavers, edge restraints, sand, gravel, and other materials you’ll need. Most likely you will need to have the materials delivered to your site. The pavers, sand, and gravel are heavy, so delivery makes sense. You should select a convenient and safe location where the materials can be placed.

You will need the following tools and equipment:

- Gloves
- Push Broom
- Shovel
- String Level
- 24” Carpenter’s Square
- 2 pcs 1” o.d. conduit pipe x 8’ long (screed pipe)
- 1 pc 2” x 4” x 8’ kiln-dried lumber (screed board)
- Mason’s Line
- Wood Stakes
- Garden Rake
- Marking Crayon
- Tape Measure
- Rubber Mallet
- Wheelbarrow
- Steel Rake
- Safety Glasses

In addition, you will need a tamper or plate compactor and a guillotine cutter or masonry saw to cut some of the pavers. They are available from your Ideal Authorized Dealer or local equipment rental store.
Preparing

Before starting excavation, contact Dig Safe or Call Before You Dig and request that they mark all underground cables or pipes. These services are usually free, but may require up to 72 hours notice.

Begin by marking out the area to be paved. Use a garden hose to layout free-form curves. A circle is marked out from a stake at the center point. Using a string line cut to the length of the radius desired, mark the arc with chalk. Be sure to allow an additional 6” on each side of the pavement (except where the pavers abut a wall, foundation, or existing curb) for drainage and edge restraints. Set a series of stakes along the perimeter and connect them with string.

It is important to establish a 90° corner as a starting point. A simple technique uses the 3-4-5 triangle method. From the corner stake, measure 3’ across the bottom and 4’ up the side, adjusting them until the distance of the diagonal line is exactly 5’ long. A 24” carpenter’s square also can be used. You also will need to establish a 90° corner when setting the edging and laying the pavers.

Excavating

If you have a large area to excavate, you may wish to hire a contractor. They can haul away and dispose of the excavated material. For smaller areas, a shovel and some hard work will get the job done. Remove grass, loam, roots, and large rocks. Use a flat shovel or spade to skim off the last couple of inches to avoid disturbing the subgrade soil. Remember, you’ll need to excavate 6” beyond the final dimensions of the pavement to install the edge restraints.

The depth of the excavation will depend on the project and soil conditions. The base under the pavers must be sufficiently thick to support loads in order to avoid rutting over time. The chart shown will give you an idea of how deep you’ll need to dig. If you have good draining granular soils, such as gravel, you can use less base material than if you have poor soils, such as clay. Granular soil feels gritty between your fingers, while clay soils feel slick, especially when wet.
Determine the elevation of your finished pavement - it should be approximately \(1/4\)" above the surrounding area to allow for lock-up over time. The pavement must be sloped \(1/4\)" per foot to provide drainage. This slope is established at the subgrade level by pulling string lines across the width of the excavated area and leveling them using a line level. On the side you wish to slope towards, move the lines down \(1/4\)" for every foot that the pavement is wide. For example, if the area is 4' wide, lower the string 1". Measure the distance between the subgrade and the string lines - the excavated depth should be uniform across the width of the slope.

**Tip:** Since the string lines must be removed in order to compact the subgrade, mark their position on the stakes, which should be left in place. You'll need to reset these lines for other steps of the installation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Excavation Depth</th>
<th>Base Thickness</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Good Soil</td>
<td>Poor Soil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walkway/Patio</td>
<td>7&quot;</td>
<td>9&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pool Deck*</td>
<td>9&quot;</td>
<td>11&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driveway</td>
<td>11&quot;</td>
<td>15&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Because an in-ground pool installation involves a lot of excavation, a large volume of earth is disturbed. Unless you are confident that the soil has been properly back-filled and compacted in lifts, it may be advisable to wait 6 months or longer for the soil around the pool to settle naturally.

You must compact the subgrade soil at the bottom of the excavated area with a plate compactor, or for small jobs, a hand tamper, in order to create a firm and stable foundation for the base. As an alternative, consider renting a tool called The Pounder® from your Ideal Authorized Dealer. It's similar to a hand tamper, but does a much better job and is easier to use.

**Installing the Base**

The key to a successful pavement is the base installation - it is the most important step of your project. In addition to the proper thickness, the base must be placed in lifts and thoroughly compacted, otherwise settlement may occur. The base material should be a coarse, granular gravel consisting of a proportioned gradation of sand and stone. We recommend \(1 \frac{1}{2}\)" processed gravel, \(\frac{1}{4}\)" crusher run, or dense-graded gravel.

For every 100 square feet (sf) of area, you will need the following amount of base material: for the thickness shown:

- 4" thick - 2 tons
- 8" thick - 4 tons
- 6" thick - 3 tons
- 12" thick - 6 tons
Installing Edge Restraints

Unless the pavers are up against an existing curb or a foundation, it is important to install edge restraints around the entire perimeter. This keeps the pavers in position and helps prevent them from tipping or spreading apart.

While various types of edging materials can be used, we recommend Pave Edge® Flexible. Few other edging systems can match its performance and it is easy to install and will not rot or rust. Place the edging directly on the compacted base and secure in place by driving the 10" spikes every 2' into the pre-drilled holes. Pave Edge Flexible can be used for straight or curved sections. Be sure that all corners that are to be square are exactly 90°. Use the 3-4-5 triangle method described in Step 2.

To ensure adequate compaction, you will need to install the base in lifts (layers). If you will be using a hand-tamper, spread an even layer of gravel about 2” thick. If using a plate compactor, you can spread the gravel in 3” to 4” layers.

Wet, but do not saturate the base with water as you compact. When it cannot be compacted further, add the next layer of gravel and compact. Take your time - do not rush this step! Continue to add and compact material until the top of the base is approximately 2 1/4” to 3” below the height of the finished pavement. Verify this by resetting the string lines to the final elevation and measuring the distance - the depth should be uniform throughout. The remaining space is for the 1” sand bed and concrete pavers after they have been compacted into place. If necessary, add or delete base material to bring it to the desired slope and grade, and compact it well.

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Installing Edge Restraints

Unless the pavers are up against an existing curb or a foundation, it is important to install edge restraints around the entire perimeter. This keeps the pavers in position and helps prevent them from tipping or spreading apart.
Placing the Sand Bed

Before the pavers can be placed, a setting bed of washed concrete sand must be installed and leveled. This process is known as screeding. Although commonly used, we do not recommend stone dust because it packs too tightly and can get spongy if it becomes saturated with water.

For every 100 sf of pavers, approximately 1 ton of concrete sand is required for bedding and jointing when the sand is screeded to 1” thick.

Place the steel pipes on the compacted base parallel to each other about 4’ to 6’ apart. At several intervals, run a string line set at the height of the finished elevation across the pipes. The top of the pipes should be 1 1/4” to 2” below the line. If necessary, adjust the height by putting a handful of sand under each end of the pipe if too low or by trimming the base if too high.

Cover the pipes and space between them with concrete sand. Level the sand by pulling the 2” x 4” screed board along the top of the pipes. Fill any low spots with sand and rescreen. Move the pipes forward, fill the voids with sand and repeat the process until the entire sand bed is installed. Do not step on, compact, or allow the sand to become wet once it has been screeded. An important note - you should only screed the area that will be covered with concrete pavers on that same day.

Tip: If the area to be paved is wider than your screed board, carefully remove the screed pipe closest to the edge, place it on the opposite side of the pipe left in place and repeat the screeding process.

Laying the Pavers

Most Ideal pavers can be installed in a variety of laying patterns. The most popular are running bond, herringbone, and basket weave. Some shapes feature unique patterns, while others offer virtually unlimited design possibilities. We’ve shown some of the most popular patterns for our shapes in the Patterns with Style section included in this booklet.
As pavers are not set in mortar or concrete, you can work at your own pace. Follow the directions carefully, but if you make a mistake, don’t panic! Simply remove the pavers to correct the error and pick up where you left off.

It is important to start your paver installation along a straight edge or from a 90° corner, even with a curved layout. Begin placing the pavers on the screeded sand bed along a straight line in the pattern you have chosen. Install the pavers “hand-tight” so that the joints between the pavers are about 1/8” wide. With circles and fans, joint spacing may vary. We mold our pavers with “spacers” on the sides of most of our shapes to assist in proper joint spacing. Using the “touch and drop” method, grasp a paver between your thumb and fingers. Touch the bottom half against the sides of the previously placed pavers and release your grip, guiding the paver to drop down directly onto the sand. Do not slide the paver across the sand.

Our traditional pavers with chamfered edges should be placed with chamfers facing up. Yankee Cobble™ should be placed with its embossed surface as the top side. Our MillStone™ and Georgetown Colonial® Pavers can be installed with either side face up. For a rustic look, try alternating Georgetown Colonial® faces in a random fashion. While BrookStone™ is typically placed with its embossed surface face up, you also may selectively install some with the flat side up for an interesting effect.

Always select pavers from different layers and from several cubes at a time and to ensure even distribution of inherent color shades when installing. Proceed from one starting point only. The first several rows are the most important for keeping the lines of the pattern straight. Once you have established the pattern, placing the pavers will become easy. Every couple of feet, pull string lines over the joints to maintain pattern lines.
You should work off the pavers as they are installed, keeping a foot or so back from the laying edge. If you are installing pavers on a slope, always start at the bottom and work uphill. Periodically check your row alignment by running a string line along the front edge of the leading row, making sure that each paver touches the string. If adjustment is needed, wedge the pavers into the proper position using a screwdriver or tap them with a wood block and mallet. Install any remaining edge restraints at this time. For pavements that will have curves, continue the pattern to just beyond the width of the pavement. Mark and cut the pavers along the perimeter to accommodate the curve. Unless you are using our Classico® pavers, do not attempt to turn the pavers to follow the curves.

If you are laying a pattern with circles or fans, it is best to start at the center of the circle and work your way out. Refer to the charts in the Patterns with Style section for the shape you are using. Screed only enough sand for the setting bed that allows you to comfortably place the pavers within arm’s reach. As the diameter of the circle increases, you will be able to work off of it to place additional pavers. Another method is to place half of the circle first, then install the remaining half by working from the previously installed area. Fans are installed in a similar manner.

Add a professional touch to your pavement by using Boston or Georgetown Colonial® Pavers as a soldier or sailor course along the outside edges to finish the border. This technique works well with almost any style of paver and pavement shape, including curves, by “framing” the pavement for a neat finished appearance. See page 11 for more information on soldier and sailor border courses.
8 Cutting the Pavers

You will need to cut some of the pavers to fit neatly along the edges of the pavement. Measure and mark the pavers to be cut with a marking crayon (it is best to cut the paver about \( \frac{1}{4} \)" less than the actual dimension). Always cut the paver in the shortest direction for a neat cut. Don’t be too concerned if a cut is not perfect. Jointing sand will fill the gaps.

If using a guillotine cutter, place the paver under the center of the blade. Push the handle down using a quick, forceful motion. When using a masonry saw, cut under the center of the blade, using just enough pressure to allow the blade to do the work. When cutting pavers, exercise caution and **always use safety glasses, gloves, a dust mask, and when using a masonry saw, hearing protection.**

9 Compacting the Pavers

After all of the pavers have been installed and the edge restraints securely set, sweep the surface clean of any debris and tamp the pavers into the bedding sand using a plate compactor. Do not compact within three feet of an unrestrained edge. Adjust the speed of the machine so that it runs with a high vibration, but at a low amplitude (jumping motion). Make two or three passes at 90° angles to each other. Spread sand over the surface, sweep into the joints, and compact again. It is okay to leave a thin layer of sand on the surface as you compact. If any of the pavers become damaged, remove them by placing two large screwdrivers in the joints on opposite sides of the paver and pry and rock it straight up. Tamp the replacement pavers into place with the plate compactor.
If you have not used SandLock®, you will need to spread additional sand over the paver surface and sweep back and forth until the joints are full. Allowing sand to dry prior to sweeping will make filling the joints easier. The plate compactor also can be used to vibrate sand into the joints. Keep a small amount of sand on hand to re-fill any joints, if needed, after a few weeks. To finish the job, sweep the pavers clean and hose the surface down with water. Complete your landscaping by adding sod or plantings as desired.

Congratulations! You should feel a real sense of accomplishment! Your new walkway, patio, pool deck, or driveway is ready to use and will provide you with a durable and attractive pavement that you will enjoy for many years to come.

A white deposit known as efflorescence sometimes appears on the surface of clay and concrete products. Do not be alarmed! It has no detrimental effect on the pavers and eventually disappears. If you wish to remove it immediately, a special efflorescence remover can be applied. You should never use muriatic acid! See your Ideal Authorized Dealer for information on high-performance cleaners and sealers formulated specifically to enhance and maintain the beauty of concrete pavers. These surface treatments can help keep your pavement looking like new!
**Pavers by Ideal** features a wide array of attractive pavers with shapes that can create engaging patterns and designs that no other paving material can match! The color, pattern, shape, and visual texture of our concrete pavers are all important elements in the design of picturesque pavements that add charm, vitality, and ambiance to any landscape setting.

Most shapes can be installed in a number of patterns. Choose from classic 45° or 90° herringbone, elegant basket weaves, traditional running bonds, dramatic circles, fans, or sweeping curves. Some pavers, such as Symmetry®, have shapes that lend themselves to patterns specific to their geometry. Other styles can be installed in virtually unlimited patterns and combinations.

Any of the patterns are suitable for walkways, patios, and pool decks. While running bonds and basket weaves may be used for residential driveways, herringbone patterns provide the greatest degree of interlock. Stack bond patterns and large size pavers such as our 12” x 12” Plaza Pavers™ should be utilized only for foot traffic.

**Border Courses**

Although Boston and Georgetown Colonial® Pavers are the most popular choice for border courses, other paver shapes also may be used.

- **4” x 8” Soldier Course** 3 pieces per lineal foot
- **4” x 8” Sailor Course** 1 1/2 pieces per lineal foot
- **8” x 8” Soldier Course** 1 1/2 pieces per lineal foot

![4” x 8” Soldier Course w/ 90° Herringbone Pattern](image1)

![4” x 8” Sailor Course w/ 45° Herringbone Pattern](image2)

![8” x 8” Soldier Course w/ Running Bond Pattern](image3)

![4” x 8” Double Sailor Course w/ Basket Weave Pattern](image4)
Boston Colonial® Pavers
Georgetown Colonial® Pavers

Nominal Size:
4” x 8” • 4.5 pcs/sf
6 cm or 8 cm thickness
6 cm - 108 sf/cube
8 cm - 84 sf/cube - Made to order

Boston Colonial and Georgetown Colonial Pavers may be installed in a wide variety of pattern designs including herringbones, running bonds, and basket weaves.
Starting Herringbones

When starting herringbone patterns with Boston or Georgetown Colonial® Pavers, some units will need to be cut (shown as white units below). Start with the first paver and continue placing the pavers in the order shown. The order of placement shown below, known as the “Ladder”, is the most efficient installation method.

*For patterns that require a 4” x 4” paver (shown as white units above), a 4” x 8” Double Set Plaza Paver may be cut in half to make two 4” squares with chamfers on all four sides.
BrookStone™

Large Rectangle
5 3/4" x 8 5/8" • 2.9 pcs/sf
93 sf/cube

Medium Rectangle
5 1/4" x 4 1/3" • 5.78 pcs/sf
100 sf/cube

Square Stone
5 3/4" x 5 3/4" • 4.36 pcs/sf
99 sf/cube

All BrookStone pavers are 6cm thick.

Our BrookStone shapes are packaged separately for greater design flexibility in creating patterns.

Percentages shown are per 100 square feet.
Uni-Decor®

5 1/2" x 9" • 3.5 pcs/sf
6cm or 8cm thickness
6cm - 103 sf/cube
8cm - 80 sf/cube - Made to order

Uni-Decor® Edges

4 1/2" x 9"
Available in 6cm thickness
1.33 pcs/lf • 100 sf/cube

When installed, Uni-Decor's appearance remains the same regardless of pattern selected, however, different colors can be used to highlight pattern designs.

- Running Bond
- Parquet/Basket Weave
- 90° Herringbone
- 45° Herringbone

*With Boston Colonial® Paver Soldier Course*
Classico®

Large Rectangle (Pallet 1)
4 1/4" x 6 1/4" • 4.63 pcs/sf • 93 sf/cube

Square Stone (Pallet 2)
4 1/4" x 4 1/4" • 7.02 pcs/sf • 103 sf/cube

Circle Pak (Pallet 3)
Squares, Large & Small Wedge
86 sf/cube

Classico is available in 6 cm thickness.

Classico can be installed in a number of exciting patterns including basket weaves, herringbones, running bonds, circles, fans, and curves.

*Percentages shown are per 100 square feet.*

Running Bond Head-On
100% Squares

Running Bond
100% Rectangles

Herringbone Variation 1
27.5% Squares • 72.5% Rectangles

Herringbone Variation 2
40% Squares • 60% Rectangles

Herringbone Variation 3
37% Squares • 63% Rectangles

Herringbone Variation 4
40% Squares • 60% Rectangles
Classico® Fan Patterns

Pallet #3 has enough Small and Large Wedge stones to make as many as 20 fans. When installing fans, select configurations such as those shown below that can be repeated with a minimum amount of cutting and set within arm’s reach.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FANS</th>
<th>SM. WEDGE STONES</th>
<th>LG. WEDGE STONES</th>
<th>SQUARE STONES</th>
<th>NO. OF ROWS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>19-21</td>
<td>23-25</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>19-21</td>
<td>41-43</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that the number of Large Wedge and Square stones may vary slightly depending on joint spacing between the stones.

Small Fan
54” wide x 30” high

Large Fan
62” wide x 37” high

Multiple Fans
Classico® Circle Diagram & Chart

Pallet #3 provides enough Small and Large Wedge stones to create as many as 4 circles 48” in diameter. For larger circles simply use Square or Rectangle stones from our #1 and #2 Pallets in subsequent rows. Note that joints will not all be staggered from row to row.

LEGEND
SW - Small Wedge
LW - Large Wedge
SQ - Square
REC - Rectangle

The diagram depicts a circle using Small and Large Wedge stones and Square stones. Starting with Row 7, only Square stones are used. In Row 8 and above, you can add Rectangle stones if desired.
**Symetry®**

4 1/4” x 10 1/4”
6 cm thickness
3 pcs/sf • 84 sf/cube

**Symetry® Squares**

6 1/16” x 6 1/16”
6 cm thickness
3.62 pcs/sf • 104 sf/cube

Symetry can be installed in single stone patterns or in striking combinations with Symetry Squares.

*White area shows a single Symetry paver within the patterns. Percentages shown are per 100 square feet.*
Yankee Cobble™
MillStone™

Large Rectangle
6 \(\frac{3}{16}\)" x 9 \(\frac{7}{16}\)" • 2.42 pcs/sf • 112 sf/cube

Medium Rectangle
4 \(\frac{3}{4}\)" x 6 \(\frac{3}{16}\)" • 4.84 pcs/sf • 91 sf/cube

Small Rectangle
3 \(\frac{3}{8}\)" x 6 \(\frac{5}{16}\)" • 7.24 pcs/sf • 96 sf/cube

Square Stone
6 \(\frac{3}{16}\)" x 6 \(\frac{5}{16}\)" • 3.62 pcs/sf • 104 sf/cube

All Yankee Cobble and MillStone pavers are 6 cm thick.
Percentages shown are per 100 square feet.
Yankee Cobble™ & MillStone™ Circles

Packaged as follows:
6 - Center Stone
18 - Large Wedge Stone
174 - Small Wedge Stone
120 - Medium Rectangle
6 - Small Rectangle
64 sf/cube

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<tr>
<th>Row</th>
<th>Diameter</th>
<th>CS</th>
<th>LW</th>
<th>SW</th>
<th>MR</th>
<th>SR</th>
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<td>115</td>
<td>Medium Rectangle Package</td>
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Use Medium Rectangle and/or Square stones to expand the circle beyond the 14 rows shown in chart. Additional rows will increase the diameter in increments of approximately 12 1/4".
Plaza Pavers™

12" x 12"
1 pc/sf • 108 sf/cube

8" x 8"
2.25 pcs/sf • 96 sf/cube

4" x 8" and 4" x 8" Double Set*
4.5 pcs/sf • 108 sf/cube

All Plaza Pavers are 6cm thick.

Our modular Plaza Pavers are perfect for creating elegant and distinctive larger-scale pavement designs.

*The 4" x 8" Double Set unit may be cut into two individual 4" squares with chamfers on all four sides, if required.
Uni Eco-Stone®

4 1/2" x 9"
8 cm thickness
3.55 pcs/sf • 79 sf/cube

Uni Eco-Stone’s unique shape provides the same surface appearance with all of the installation patterns.

Drainage openings filled with aggregate allow rainwater to filter through to ground below

Turfstone™

23 1/8" x 15 1/4"
8 cm thickness
2.6 sf/pc
8 cm - 146 sf/cube

Turfstone’s openings can be planted with grass or filled with stone to help manage stormwater runoff.

Stack Bond

Running Bond 3/4 Offset
You can rely on us! **Ideal Concrete Block Company, Inc.** has been making quality concrete masonry products since 1923. We are one of New England's leading manufacturers of concrete pavers, landscape retaining wall systems, and patio products.

We’ve prepared this booklet to help guide you for great results that will look like it was done by a pro! If you have any additional questions or need some assistance, don’t hesitate to give us a call at 1-800-24-IDEAL, e-mail us at info@IdealConcreteBlock.com, or contact your Ideal Authorized Dealer. We’re here to help make your landscape project a success from start to finish!

For information on our complete product line of pavers and landscape walls, accessories, or cleaning and sealing products, please contact us or your Ideal Authorized Dealer for our 36-page *Come Home to Style* catalog.

**Pavers by Ideal** provides a lifetime warranty on the structural integrity of our concrete paving stones used in residential applications. Material installed according to our guidelines that is proven to be defective will be replaced without cost. Color matching cannot be guaranteed and replacement labor is not included. Proof of purchase is required and other exclusions apply. Please ask for complete details.

Sizes shown are soft-converted from metric mold measurements.

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