Take the Party Outside:

How to Install a Paver Patio

Landscape Design

Before building the patio, think about how you'll use the space.

1. Grilling, entertaining friends, relaxing, etc. Build the right size to suit your needs.
2. Determine how your new patio will fit into your backyard.
3. Take measurements – you often need more space than you might think.

Paver Patio Patterns

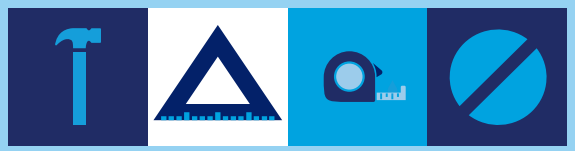
Choose the right pattern for laying the pavers. Some options are: Herringbone, Pinwheel, Running Bond, Jack-on-Jack and 4-Cobblestone pavers.

1. Running Bond and Jack-on-Jack designs are the easiest designs to create.
2. Herringbone and Pinwheel require more cutting.
3. False joints give the appearance of random pattern of multiple, smaller stones.

Layout and Patio Dimensions

After you've picked the right pattern, think through the general process of laying out the space.

1. Use batter boards with string to mark the layout.
2. Measure the diagonals to check for square. Adjust the strings until the diagonals are equal.
3. Mark the string locations on the batter boards so they can be removed for digging.



Layers

A typical paver patio installation has several layers to provide a stable surface.

1. Remove the sod and dirt 6-in beyond the strings.
2. Dig to the appropriate depth allowing for 4- to 6-in of paver base, 1-in of sand, plus the paver height. The pavers should sit slightly above ground.
3. Patios should slope away from the house, about 1-in every 4- to 8-ft. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
   - To check slope, tape a 1-in block to a 4-ft level, or set strings at the correct slope and measure throughout digging.
4. Tamp the area with a tamper or a rented plate compactor.
5. Add landscape fabric to keep weeds down.



Paver Base Gravel

1. Add paver base gravel in 2- to 3-in layers, wet and tamp.
2. Continue adding paver base until your base is 4- to 6-in.

Leveling Sand

1. To get a 1-in layer, place 1-in PVC pipe across the paver base.
2. Pour leveling sand over the pipes.
3. Use a straight 2x4 to screed the sand across the pipes to create a flat surface.
4. Remove the pipes and fill in the gaps with sand.

Set the Pavers

1. Reset the layout strings to use as a guide to lay the pavers, if needed.
2. Follow the jointing sand instructions for the gap size between the pavers.
3. Gently set the pavers onto the sand, making sure they're even. Add sand or tap down with a mallet as needed.
4. As a few courses are set in place, install edging to keep the blocks from moving.
5. Cut the blocks to fit using a wet saw, circular saw or a hammer and chisel.

Add Jointing Sand

1. Sweep the polymeric sand into the joints to keep them stable and tight. Follow packaging instructions.
2. Use a rented plate compactor or hand tamper to get the sand deep into the joints. Repeat tamping several times.
   - Place plywood over the blocks when tamping to help prevent damage.
3. Remove the excess sand with a leaf blower.
4. Lightly spray with a hose and let the sand cure for 24 hours.
5. Spot-fill joints as needed with a hand trowel.
   - Be sure to always clean excess sand from the surface, wet the joints and let cure.

Finish

1. Spot fill joints as needed with your hand or a trowel. Clean, wet and let cure.
2. Cover edging with soil and grass seed, sod or plant flowers.

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Tools & Materials List

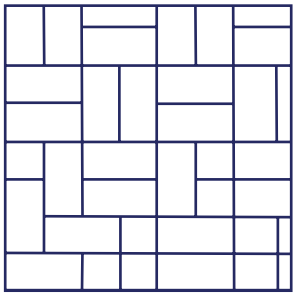
- ☐ _____ Paver Blocks
- ☐ _____ Polymeric Sand
- ☐ _____ Screws
- ☐ _____ Straight 2x4
- ☐ _____ Mini Sledgehammer
- ☐ _____ Plate Compactor or Tamper
- ☐ _____ Bucket
- ☐ _____ Hose with Nozzle
- ☐ _____ Saw
- ☐ _____ Safety Glasses
- ☐ _____ Paver Base Gravel
- ☐ _____ Landscape Edging
- ☐ _____ Mason's String
- ☐ _____ 4-ft Level
- ☐ _____ Shovel
- ☐ _____ Rubber Mallet
- ☐ _____ Broom
- ☐ _____ Plywood
- ☐ _____ Chisel
- ☐ _____ Knee Pads
- ☐ _____ Leveling Sand
- ☐ _____ 1-in Stakes
- ☐ _____ 1-in PVC Pipes
- ☐ _____ Tape Measure
- ☐ _____ Wheelbarrow
- ☐ _____ Trowel
- ☐ _____ Utility Knife
- ☐ _____ Pencil
- ☐ _____ Work Gloves

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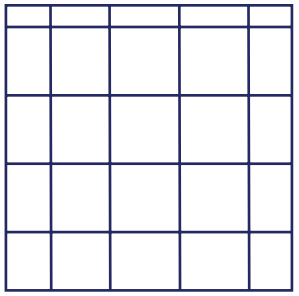
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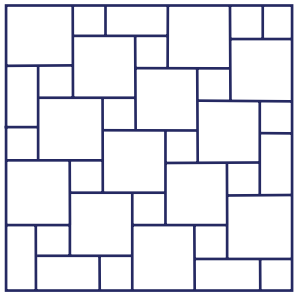
Notes



Herringbone



Jack-on-Jack



Pinwheel