

Aldax Moulds

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HOW TO LAY CONCRETE PAVERS

The concrete pavers have been removed from your moulds , set aside in a cool spot to cure for a week and are now ready for laying. What is the first step?

- (1) If the project is square or rectangular, hammer in 4 wooden pegs in the corners 15 cm outside the actual area to be paved, to allow for the use of edge restraints. Tie string on the pegs at a height slightly above the surrounding surface. If your design is irregular or has curves mark the area with spray paint. Using a tape measure transfer the measurements and design to a sheet of graph paper, scaling to size. Use a pencil as you will probably need to erase your design several times to get the appearance you want. Make your pathways at least 60cm to allow two people to pass with ease.
- (2) Excavate the grass and ground to the desired depth. For driveways allow 100 to 150mm for road base and 40mm for bedding sand plus the thickness of the pavers For pathways allow 50 to 80mm of road base and 40mm for the bedding sand plus the paver thickness. Your project will need adequate drainage if it is to last, so ensure it slopes away from your house and any other structures. The slope should be calculated at 3 to 5mm per 30 cm. Providing the correct slope level is achieved by lowering the string on the outside pegs the required distance. If pavers are designed to start against the side of the house, set the string height of these pegs below the damp proof course.
- (3) The materials for the job should be now ordered. Moulds for pavers now come in many different designs and sizes including interlocking shapes , with the added advantage of a large palette of colours, so literally thousands of combinations are now possible. If your design is fairly straightforward simply multiply the length by the breadth to give you the area to be covered and divide the paver size into this to give you the number of pavers required. Add 10% to ensure you have sufficient.
- (4) To give a firm foundation for the pavers spread roadbase in 50mm layers and compact by using a plate vibrator which can be rented by the day or use a hand tamper. Use string arranged in an x across the job to ensure that this is laid evenly. Measure from the string down not from the surface of the ground.
- (5) The next thing to do is to spread the bedding sand evenly across the road base. Use two pieces of wood 40mm thick and about 2metres long to act as rails. Place them about a metre apart and pour sand in between them. Use a piece of straight timber and screed the sand level between the rails. Take up the rails and move to a new area until the whole area has been covered filling in the areas where the rails were located and level using a wood float.

HOW TO LAY CONCRETE PAVERS (Continued)

- (6) Now comes the easy part. Lay the pavers. Begin by starting at any 90 degree corner possibly the wall of the house. Place the pavers directly down onto the sand. Do not slide or disturb or walk on the screeded sand layer. Allow 3mm between pavers to prevent possible chipping. Check levels and straightness by measuring from a string line.
- (7) Some pavers may have to be cut to fit the area. Take a paver to the position required and mark the cut mark with a wax crayon. Cut with a masonry saw or a brick bolster.
- (8) Install edge restraints which are essential to stop any movement of the pavers. These can be treated timber or concrete laid at an angle about 10mm below the surface of the pavers.
- (9) Use a plate compactor or hand tamper to level and press the pavers snugly into the sand. Use a piece of carpet under the vibrator to prevent marking the pavers. For smaller jobs a rubber mallet and a piece of timber will do the compacting quite effectively.
- (10) Sweep the dry jointing sand into the paver joints until filled. Sweep clean.
- (11) Seal the pavers. This will protect the pavers, seal the sand between the joints and prevent weed growth, saving on maintenance time.
- (12)

Adam Alderson develops concrete moulds and coloring systems to help you in your decorative concrete business or hobby. Would you like to learn more about this interesting and profitable business. Claim your free ebook at www.moulds4concrete.com.au