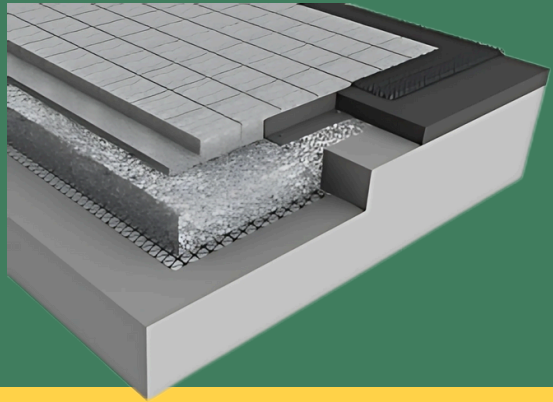


Hardscaping Standard Guide

A Practical Installation Process



HERE IS WHAT WE DO TO THE THE JOB DONE



1

PREPARATION

The location of the patio, walkway or driveway should be marked out first. Utilities, phone company and cable TV providers should then be contacted to locate any buried cables and/or services.



2

EXCAVATION

The depth of excavation depends on soil type. Clay soil requires deeper excavation; sandy soil requires less. Using Unilock DriveGrid™ can reduce the depth of excavation that is required. (See chart above)

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3

BASE

The excavated area is filled with a gravel base and compacted using a gas-powered plate compactor in layers 2" - 3" thick. All installations should be sloped away from the house/building for proper drainage.



4

SCREEDING

Pavers are laid on a 1" thick bed of coarse sand or a 1/8" open-graded chip placed directly on the compacted base. One-inch diameter pipes are often used as screeding guides on top of the gravel. This bedding layer allows pavers to be leveled for smoothness and drainage.



5

LAYING THE PAVERS

Pavers are laid in the desired pattern directly on the screeded bedding material. String lines help to keep the joint lines straight. During this process walk on the pavers, not the screed bed.

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6

CUTTING

Pavers that do not fit along edges or around objects require cutting. Pavers are cut with a guillotine cutter or masonry saw. Proper safety gear must be worn while cutting and dustless or wet saws should be used to limit airborne silica.



7

ACCENTS

Use contrasting colors, textures and patterns to make accents. Accents are easy to install and make your installation unique. They are often laid first before installing the main pattern.



8

EDGE RESTRAINT

Edge restraints are a critical element in terms of the durability of a paver installation. They prevent the pavers from moving and shifting laterally. Both plastic and metal edge restraints are effective. Edge restraints must always be spiked into the compacted base. Various concrete edging materials also work well.



9

COMPACTING

After all the cuts have been made, and the edge restraints are in place, the pavers must be swept clean and then compacted with a plate compactor. This helps settle the pavers into the bedding material and creates a flat surface. A compactor protector pad should be used to protect paver surface from being scratched.



10

JOINT MATERIAL

Joint material plays an important role between pavers, in keeping weeds and other debris out. Your contractor can help you decide which joint material is right for your project.

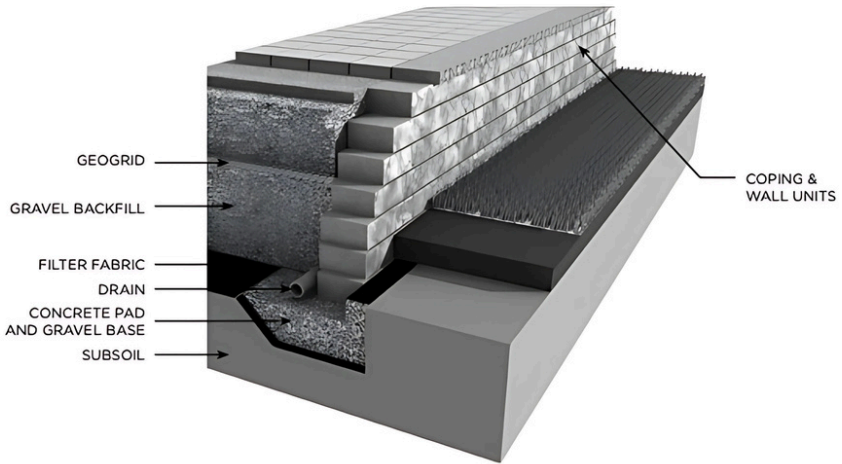


10

SEALING

Some homeowners choose to apply a sealer to enhance the color of the pavers, while others choose to appreciate the colors as they are. If you choose to seal, you should plan to reseal every 3-5 years. Always test sealer in a small hidden area to make sure you are satisfied with the results.

WALL INSTALLATION



WALL BASE THICKNESS		
Application	Gravel Base	Backfill
Walls	6" (15 cm)	12" (300 cm)
Planters	4" - 6" (10 - 15 cm)	8" (20 cm) angled
Steps	4" - 6" (10 - 15 cm)	8" (20 cm)
Pillars	12" - 18" (30 - 46 cm)	N/A

GRAVEL BASE - Use 3/4" (2 cm) crusher run gravel/or 3/4" clear stone



1

PREPARATION & EXCAVATION

The location of the patio, walkway or driveway will be marked out. Utilities, phone company and cable TV providers should be contacted to locate any buried cables and/or services.

A minimum of 7" - 12" below the finished grade will be excavated at a width that is 2 times the depth of the wall block. More excavation will be required if the soil has been previously disturbed or drains poorly. Remove all loose soil.

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2

BASE

The appropriate thickness of 3/4" crushed gravel is placed into the excavated trench and compacted in layers of 2" - 3" using a hand tamper or gas-powered vibrating compactor.



3

LEVELING

Individual wall blocks are leveled on top of the gravel base using a mallet and a small level, or installed on top of Universal Base Units from Unilock. After the first row is in, the rest of the units will be stacked. For block styles that do not have a lip or groove locking them together, the blocks should be glued together.



4

BACKFILLING

Gravel backfill should be added after every 2 rows of block, using clear gravel. Filter fabric is used to separate the existing soils from the clear gravel. This will improve the durability of the wall by keeping the area behind the wall frost-free.



5

FINISHING

The final row of blocks or coping should be glued with a concrete adhesive; in some cases this might be a special cap. After the glue has set (approx. 4 - 8 hours), you may backfill with soil, put in sod or install plants to complete your installation.