

Homeowner's Guide to Installing Permeable Pavers

Paths • Sidewalks • Patios



PERMEABLE PAVEMENT

Permeable pavement is a type of hard surface that is pleasing to the eye, comfortable to walk on, and allows rainwater to drain through the joints into an underlying gravel layer.

When it rains, water passes through the joints between individual pavers into the underlying gravel and soil layers. Such infiltration benefits soil health, nearby plants, mitigates stormwater runoff, and adds to groundwater recharge.

Hard surfaces such as concrete and asphalt, on the other hand, are impervious cover and cause rainwater to collect on top or run off carrying pollutants and contributing to localized flooding. Permeable pavers are a low impact development (LID) method that soak up the rain, slow it down, and reduce runoff.

SUPPLY LIST

Pavers	Gravel	Tamper	Gloves	Levels
T-Square	Shovel	Wheel Borrow	Rake	Mallet

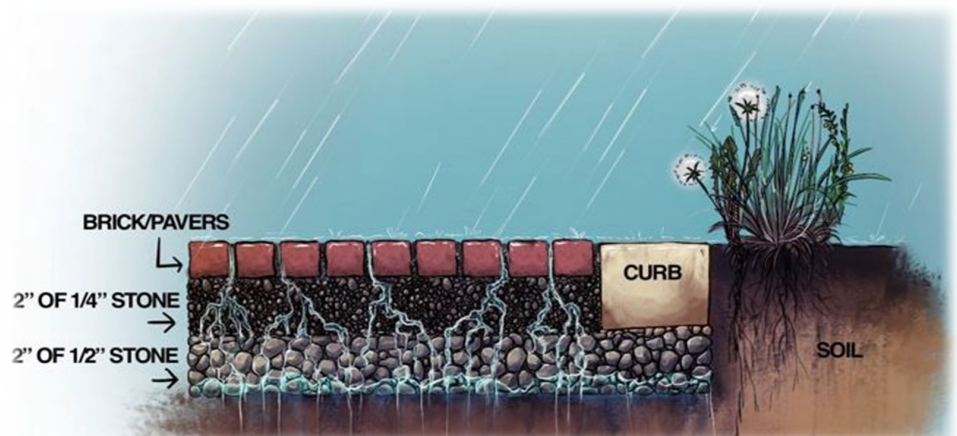
WANT TO BUILD YOUR OWN PROJECT?

----- 6 steps on back-----

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- ✓ Lay out the path
- ✓ Determine square footage
- ✓ Decide on paver pattern and color
- ✓ Count number of bricks needed
- ✓ Determine length of edge restraints
- ✓ Calculate volume of gravel needed
- ✓ Test your soil for infiltration rate 1 inch/hour or more desired

*Soil testing information on back



Step 1 - Excavate Soil



Excavate a minimum of 6 inches of soil making sure to maintain uniform depth along the edges and bottom. This depth, when filled with gravel, will capture about 1.5 inches of rain. Most rain events in central Texas are less than or equal to 1.5 inches.

Step 4 - Screed Gravel



Using a notched board, screed the gravel 1.5 to 2 inches (whatever the thickness of the pavers or brick is) below the top of the edge restraints. This step is important to allow the top of the pavers to be level with the edge restraints and to each other. *A level surface is very appealing with pavers.

Step 2 - Add Edge Restraints



Restraints should be buried in the ground, level, and level to one another. Many different materials can be used (stone, concrete, laminated wood, and metal landscape borders, for example).

Step 5 - Lay Pavers



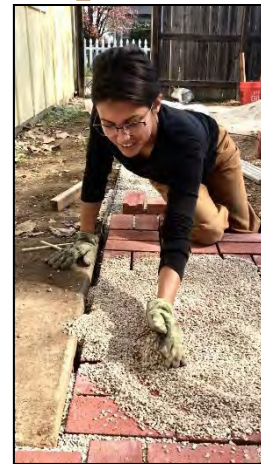
Some pavers have chamfers (ridges) on the side that form an open joint when layed. If they are bricks leave a ¼ inch joint between them on all sides. Make sure the surface of the pavers is level and place them neatly to form a nice, evenly aligned pattern.

Step 3 - Add Gravel



See cross section on page 1. 2 inches of 1/2 inch gravel topped with 2 inches of 1/4 inch gravel. Gravel should be clean and angular (no pea gravel or decomposed granite). Pack the gravel using boot compaction, a tamper, or flat board. Cover with plastic to keep clean when work stops.

Step 6 - Fill Joints



Spread the ¼ inch stone over the surface and into the joints. The ¼ inch stone is both bedding and filler for the joints. Add more stone the first 1-2 weeks as it settles into place.

NOTE: To keep joints open and free to infiltrate water, keep dirt, grass, and debris swept or blown off of the paver surface regularly as routine maintenance.

Helpful Contact Information:

Gravel - Brooks Stone Ranch, (830) 624-7554 (www.brooksstoneranch.com)

Gravel - New Braunfels Landscape Supply, (830) 606-4710 (www.newbraunfelslandscapesupply.com)

Pavers - Home Depot

Pavers - Keller Material, (210) 967-1300 (www.kellermaterial.com)

Infiltration - <http://environment.arlingtonva.us/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2013/10/Soil-Test.pdf>

Infiltration Test/Guidance - Elizabeth Arceneaux, P.E., (512)-644-1927 (www.eaenvironmental.net)