PAVER INSTALLATION



1. Layout and Planning:

Sketch the outline of your project including dimensions. Calculating the total square feet of area and the total linear feet of edging will facilitate ordering the correct amount of material. Your R.I. Lampus Company Landscape Products Distributor can assist you with estimating quantities and material selection. The measurements in this example are based on 2 3/8" thick pavers.



2. Excavation:

Mark the outline of your project with string lines or painted lines. Be sure to add 4 to 6 inches beyond the perimeter of your project to support edge restraints. Existing soil will need to be excavated to allow for the base and sand. General guidelines suggest 4 to 6 inches of compacted base for a patio or walk and 8 to 12 inches of compacted base for a driveway. Add 3" to the desired base depth to allow for sand and the height of the pavers.

Note: Always locate utility lines before digging.



3. Base Installation:

Compact the bottom of the excavated area with a vibratory plate compactor. Apply a layer of geotextile over the compacted earth and under the base material for better support. Fill the excavated area with base material (*crushed stone like PA D.O.T. type 2-A*). Stone base should be filled and compacted in 2" lifts, until desired base height is reached. The top of the compacted base should be 3" below the desired final grade of the pavers and appear very level and true to grade.



4. Screed Sand:

Screed 1" of coarse sand over the base. Two 1" outside diameter pipes or conduits laid parallel to one another can be used as a screed guide. Level the sand by pulling a 2" x 4" along the pipes. Pull the pipes out after screeding and fill the voids with sand. Avoid walking in the sand and protect the area from rain or pre-compaction to assure a consistent final result.



5. Lay Pavers:

Select a starting point (usually the corner near the longest straight edge) and begin laying the pavers on the prepared sand in your desired pattern. Do not press or hammer the pavers. A string line should be used to keep lines straight and square.



6. Cutting and Details:

Mark and cut all pavers to fill any voids left in the pattern. Your distributor can advise you about what tools you will need and where to buy or rent them.

Note: Wear proper eye, ear and respiratory protection when cutting concrete pavers.



7. Edge Restraint:

Many edge restraints can be installed along the paver perimeter after the pavers are placed. Scrape the sand away from the edge of the pavers with a trowel and push the restraint against them. Hold the edging in place and spike as directed by the edge supplier.



8. Compaction of Pavers:

When all of the pavers are laid and restrained, sweep off the entire surface and compact the pavers down into the sand with several passes of a vibratory plate compactor. Vibrating will push the pavers down 3/8" (the height previously allowed for when applying the Screed Sand) and force some sand up through the joints from the bottom. Doing this will help lock the pavers together.



9. Sweep Sand:

Sweep the joints full of coarse, dry sand. Sand must be dry to effectively fill the joints, and often refilling will be required after the initial application. Polymeric sand is often used for sweeping as it resists erosion, insects, and weeds better than regular sand. Be sure to follow directions on the bag for proper polymeric sand application.



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Typical Cross-Section

