

## **BRETT INSTALLATION BLOCK PAVING**

### How to lay block paving

There's an art to laying block paving, but with the right materials, tools and Brett products, you could turn your art into a masterpiece. Simply follow this step-by-step guide, or visit our block paving page, to achieve a driveway to be proud of.

#### **Before you start**

Draw a simple plan of your home and garden, sketching where you would like areas to be paved for your driveway. Once your plan has been finalised, lay out lengths of string to mark out the dimensions of your proposed driveway in position. Once you're satisfied with your layout, you can begin

#### **STEP 1: Site Preparation**

Depending on the size of the area, using a shovel or mini excavator, dig out to the advised level. This will depend on your existing surfaces; our Customer Services team will be able to advise as to the appropriate depth.

If you find soft spots in the soil, further excavation may be required. These spots can then be filled and consolidated with sub-base material.

Remove all waste materials from the site using a wheelbarrow and skip.

**IMPORTANT! When using excavation machinery, always follow the manufacturer's guidelines, including the acceptable levels of exposure and, in particular, the recommended use of ear protection**

#### **STEP 2: Edge Restraints**

When preparing the cement mix, please avoid direct handling of cement, always wear the correct gloves to protect your skin.

Using the cement mixer, mix 1-part cement and 6 parts ballast to create a concrete foundation that is 100mm thick, ready for the edge restraint. Ensure that the edge restraint unit that is to be placed on the foundation will sit at the required finished level using the string line and spirit level.

The edge restraint can either be a kerb unit or a thick paving block (at least 60mm). Mortar these units into the foundation using the trowel and rubber mallet, and again using the concrete, form a haunch up at least half the block height.

## STEP 3: The Sub-Base

Apply the sub-base of MOT Type 1 with the rake and thoroughly compact using the Vibrating Plate Compactor in layers of 50mm until your desired level is reached.

Apply a 50mm level of slightly damp, coarse sharp sand and compact down, again using the Vibrating Plate Compactor, to an approximate depth of 35mm.

A further 20mm layer of sharp sand then needs to be raked on top and, using the screeding rails and string line, levelled to the correct falls.

**IMPORTANT! When using the vibrating plate machinery, always follow the manufacturer's guidelines, including the acceptable levels of exposure and, in particular, the recommended use of ear protection.**

## STEP 4: Installation

Remember when lifting and carrying paving units, always consider the weight before attempting to lift. If it is heavy, take care not to trap your fingers whilst handling the paving units.

Ideally starting from a right angle or straight edge, place your blocks on top of the laying course, ensuring that they sit 5mm proud of the finished level.

Following your desired laying pattern, ensure that you pick blocks from three or more different packs at any one time, in order to minimise the risk of colour patching.

Once all of the blocks are laid into position you will need to cut a number to complete the area. Cutting blocks is best done using a block splitter or diamond disc cutter. Wherever possible, always obtain water suppression cutting equipment.

**IMPORTANT! When using cutting equipment, always follow the manufacturer's guidelines, including the acceptable levels of exposure and, in particular, the recommended use of ear and eye protection.**

## STEP 5: Finishing

Using a yard broom, brush the kiln-dried sand into all of the joints and thoroughly compact, again using the Vibrating Plate Compactor, ensuring that all of the blocks are at the desired finished level.

Subsequently top the sand and re-compact to ensure that no joints are left unfilled.

**Please note, if you are using the distinctive Brett Aura range of paving blocks, Brett Permeable Chippings need to be applied in this finishing process.**

## Materials and Tools Checklist

Having the right equipment for any job will help to deliver the best results. And it's just as important to keep your tools and materials close to hand, reducing time and unnecessary cost. Quantities of the following materials will vary depending on the size and sub-base requirements of your project.

### Materials

- Sub-base MOT Type 1
- Sharp sand
- Concrete and mortar
- Brett kiln-dried sand
- Block paving

### Tools

- Trowel
- Pointing tool
- String line
- Rubber mallet
- Screeding rail
- Spirit level
- Shovel
- Skip
- Wheelbarrow
- Tape measure
- Yard broom
- Vibrating plate compactor
- Block splitter or diamond disc cutter
- Mini excavator (Optional)
- Cement mixer (Optional)

**You will also need essential personal protection equipment;**

**Gloves, Safety Goggles, Dust Mask, Ear Defenders, Knee Pads and Safety Shoes.**