

Residential Installation Guide

**Best
Bricks
& Pavers**

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1. Introduction

Whether you are laying pavers for just a small area or a large backyard DIY project, it is important that it gets done correctly. The incorrect laying of pavers can lead to pavers being damaged or lifted, which is not only unsightly, but can also be dangerous when used in an area where people will be walking.

To lay your pavers correctly, you will need:

- The pavers
- Bedding Sand
- Rubble for the base
- Concrete for edge restraints
- 50mm Galvanised Mesh
- A plate vibrator (for compacting – can be hired from hardware stores)
- A spirit level
- Straight edge
- Jointing sand

A detailed plan of your paving area should also be drawn before undertaking your project. This should have an outline of the area you are paving, with the pattern you are going to use so that you can refer to this plan throughout the laying. If you are unsure of which pattern you will be laying the pavers in, please take a look at our paver pattern design guide [here](#).

Please find the guide to help you install your traditional pavers.

2. Traditional Range

2.1 Pedestrian Application

i. Excavation

The ground should be excavated to a minimum of 120mm. (To allow for base rubble, bedding sand and paver)

ii. Base

A base that is 50mm deep should be laid using 10mm rubble or similar.

iii. Bed

Bedding sand 25mm deep should be laid using Quartzite bedding sand or similar.

iv. Product

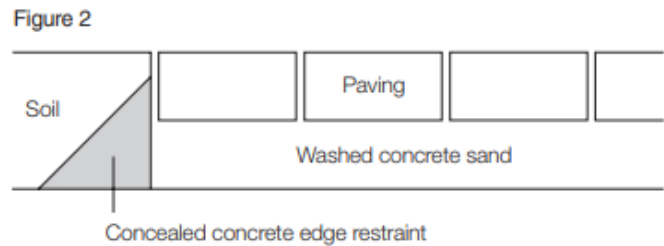
Traditional Piazza range pavers may be used for pedestrian application.

v. Laying

When laying Traditional pavers, it is important that they be gapped. 2mm is the recommended gap size. When using the Traditional Range pavers, numerous interesting paving patterns, many of which require no cutting, can be created.

vi. Edge Restraint

The paved area must be adequately restrained on all sides using a 100 x 100mm concrete edge restraint which includes 50mm galvanised mesh.



vii. Grouting and Compacting

Use a suitable vibrating machine to compact the newly paved area. Placing a mat between machine and pavers will protect the face of pavers. The paved area should be grouted using a fine dry grouting sand. After the first pass of vibrating machine sweep in more grouting sand to ensure joints are filled completely and then compact again. Complete the job by sweeping off any excess sand.

viii. Sealing

Traditional pavers can be rendered stain resistant using chemical sealers.

ix. Important Notes:

- To achieve the best results from your Traditional pavers, it is recommended that your paving be designed by a qualified engineer
- Traditional pavers should be installed by a pavior with the necessary experience to satisfactorily complete the job
- Always ensure that the paving surface is kept below the damp course level of any building. The amount by which paving must be kept below will vary from region to region. The local authority should be consulted before commencement of paving works
- Paving must slope away from any building
- The finished job will only be as good as the preparation and base compaction.

2.2 Light Traffic Application

i. Excavtion

The ground should be excavated to a minimum of 190mm. (To allow for base rubble, bedding sand and the paver)

ii. Base

The base should be 100mm deep using 10mm rubble or a similar product compacted to 95%.

iii. Bed

Bedding sand should be 25mm deep using Quartzite bedding sand or a similar product.

iv. Product

For light vehicle application, within the Traditional Range, please only use the Rua, Strada, Camion or Viale range pavers. **The Piazza range of pavers should not be used for Light Vehicle application.**

v. Laying

When laying Traditional pavers, it is important that they be gapped. 2mm is the recommended gap size. **In vehicular applications, special attention should also be given to the paving bond that is used. Stretcher bond and Herringbone bond patterns are recommended.**

vi. Edge Restraint

The paved area must be adequately restrained on all sides using a 100 x 100mm concrete edge restraint which includes 50mm galvanised mesh.

vii. Grouting and Compacting

Use a suitable vibrating machine to compact the newly paved area. Placing a mat between machine and pavers will protect the face of pavers. The paved area should be grouted using a fine dry grouting sand. After the first pass of vibrating machine sweep in more grouting sand to ensure joints are filled completely and then compact again. Complete the job by sweeping off any excess sand.

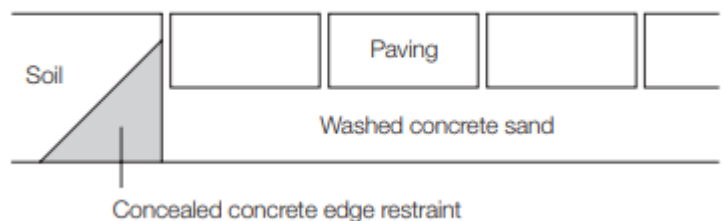
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- To achieve the best results from your Traditional pavers, it is recommended that your paving be designed by a qualified engineer
- Traditional pavers should be installed by a pavior with the necessary experience to satisfactorily complete the job
- Always ensure that the paving surface is kept below the damp course level of any building. The amount by which paving must be kept below will vary from region to region. The local authority should be consulted before commencement of paving works
- Paving must slope away from any building
- The finished job will only be as good as the preparation and base compaction.

Figure 2



3. Large Format Pavers Range

3.1 Pedestrian Application

i. Excavation

The ground should be excavated to a minimum of 120mm. (This will allow for the base rubble, bedding sand and the paver)

ii. Base

The base should be 50mm deep using 10mm rubble or a similar product.

iii. Bed

Bedding sand should be laid 25mm deep using washed concrete sand or a similar product.

iv. Product

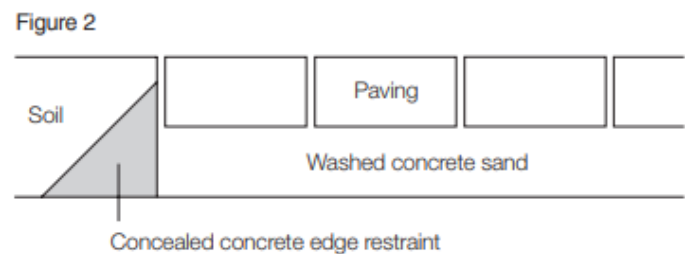
Large Format 40mm pavers may be used for pedestrian application.

v. Laying

When laying Large Format pavers it is important that they be adequately gapped. 4mm is the recommended gap. This gap is to be maintained to all four sides of paver. When cutting Large Format pavers ensure that any resulting residue or slurry is washed off immediately with clean water.

vi. Edge restraint

The paved area must be adequately restrained on all sides using a 100 x 100mm concrete edge restraint which includes 50mm galvanised mesh.



vii. Grouting & compacting

Use a vibrating machine to compact the paved area, making at least two passes over paving. The vibrating machine should have a plate size of no less than 500 x 600mm. Placing a mat between the machine and pavers will protect the face of pavers. The paved area should be grouted using a suitable dry jointing sand. It is important that this material is applied to manufacturer's instructions. Pavers must be thoroughly swept clean of any excess grouting material.

viii. Sealing

Large Format pavers can be rendered stain resistant using chemical sealers.

ix. Important Notes

- To achieve the best results from your Large Format pavers, it is recommended that your paving be designed by a qualified engineer with reference made to the CMAA's "Concrete Flag Pavements - Design and Construction Guide"
- Large Format pavers should be installed by a pavior experienced in the use of Large Format pavers
- Always ensure that the paving surface is kept below the damp course level of any building. The amount by which paving must be kept below will vary from region to region. The local authority should be consulted before commencement of paving works
- The paving must slope away from any building

- The finished job will only be as good as the preparation and base compaction
- Precautions must be taken in the first two to three months of paved surface to ensure that jointing sand is not removed. If the jointing sand is removed, refill immediately. Maintaining the jointing sand will protect the structural integrity of paved surface. Conduct regular inspections of the paved surface to identify any other problems. Attending to small localised problems often prevents the need for major maintenance of large areas.

Best only recommend the use of Pave Lock when the gradient is greater than 3%. Before applying Pave Lock ensure the pavers are clean and dry. Once the Pave Lock has been swept in, ensure that there is no remaining Pave Lock material left on the pavers before water is applied. Incorrect application can cause issues such as discoloration.

3.2 Light Vehicle Application

i. Excavation

The ground should be excavated to a minimum of 190mm. (To allow for the base rubble, bedding sand and the paver)

ii. Base

The base should be laid to 100mm deep using 10mm rubble or a similar product and then compacted to 95%.

iii. Bed

Bedding sand should be laid to 25mm deep using washed concrete sand or similar.

iv. Product

For Light Vehicle applications, Large Format 50mm or 60mm pavers may be used. **Large Format 40mm pavers should not be used for Light Vehicle Applications.**

v. Laying

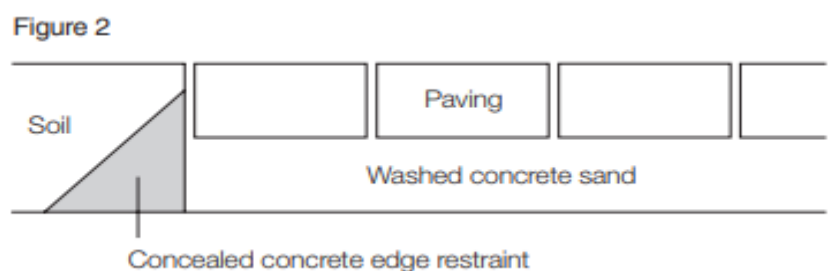
When laying Large Format pavers, it is critical that the pavers be adequately gapped. 4mm is the recommended gap. This gap is to be maintained to all four sides of paver. **In vehicular applications, special attention should also be given to the paving bond that is used. Stretcher bond is the only bond recommended.** When cutting Large Format pavers ensure that any resulting residue or slurry is washed off immediately with clean water.

vi. Edge restraint

The paved area must be adequately restrained on all sides using a 100 x 100mm concrete edge restraint which includes 50mm galvanised mesh.

vii. Grouting & compacting

Use a vibrating machine to compact the paved area, making at least two passes over paving. The vibrating machine should have a plate size of no less than 500 x 600mm. Placing a mat between the machine and pavers will protect the face of pavers. The paved area should be grouted using a suitable dry jointing sand.



It is important that this material is applied to manufacturer's instructions. Pavers must be thoroughly swept clean of any excess grouting material.

viii. Sealing

Large Format pavers can be rendered stain resistant using chemical sealers, however Best do not recommend sealing their pavers unless they are to be used in areas where staining may be a problem. If sealing pavers it is important to consider the following;

1. The bedding sand has a low salt content
2. The pavers are perfectly cleaned and dried before applying a sealer
3. As a sealer is similar to paint, you may have to maintain and replace the sealer over time
4. It is important to follow manufacturers recommendations
5. Seal a single paver before applying to the whole project first to ensure the finished product is what you were trying to achieve.
6. Slip resistance may be affected by using sealants, and Best cannot guarantee specified ratings of a paver after a sealant has been applied

ix. Important Notes

- To achieve the best results from your Large Format pavers, it is recommended that your paving be designed by a qualified engineer with reference made to the CMAA's "Concrete Flag Pavements - Design and Construction Guide"
- Large Format pavers should be installed by a pavior experienced in the use of Large Format pavers
- Always ensure that the paving surface is kept below the damp course level of any building. The amount by which paving must be kept below will vary from region to region. The local authority should be consulted before commencement of paving works
- The paving must slope away from any building
- The finished job will only be as good as the preparation and base compaction
- Precautions must be taken in the first two to three months of paved surface to ensure that jointing sand is not removed. If the jointing sand is removed, refill immediately. Maintaining the jointing sand will protect the structural integrity of paved surface. Conduct regular inspections of the paved surface to identify any other problems. Attending to small localised problems often prevents the need for major maintenance of large areas.

Best only recommend the use of Pave Lock when the gradient is greater than 3%. Before applying Pave Lock ensure the pavers are clean and dry. Once the Pave Lock has been swept in, ensure that there is no remaining Pave Lock material left on the pavers before water is applied. Incorrect application can cause issues such as discoloration.

4.0 Summary

Ensuring pavers are laid correctly will ensure that your pavers will last. Incorrect laying can lead to pavers lifting, which is not only unsightly, but can also be dangerous and can also damage the pavers. It is recommended by Best Bricks and Pavers that installation is completed by a paviour in order to receive the best quality installation you possibly can.

It is vital to inspect the pavers at routine intervals after they have been laid. In particular, any loss of grouting material should be rectified as small issues can lead to larger issues over time if they are ignored.

Sealing your newly laid pavers is a good way to help them keep stain-free, however maintenance should also be undertaken to ensure your pavers last a lifetime. Best Bricks and Pavers have released a maintenance guide with an explanation on how to get rid of the most common stains your pavers may face. You can access that information [here](#).



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