

Project Planning Guide



OUTDOOR LIVING



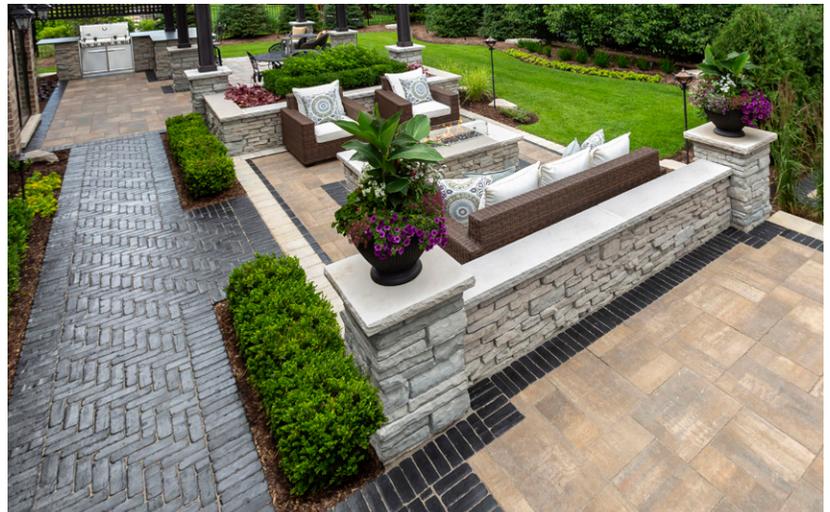
DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

EXPAND YOUR HOME

A new outdoor living space can **add functional square footage** to your existing home by providing a new space to relax and entertain. Consider first how you would like to use the space, and then design it as an extension of your interior decorating style. Even a small space can appear bigger by using different paver colors, paver borders, elevation changes and seat walls to define distinct areas for cooking, eating and relaxing.

OUTDOOR ROOMS

Fire features are growing in popularity because they add visual interest and warmth that makes the space more enjoyable to use in cooler weather. Lighting installed in gardens, low walls, steps and pillars will also help draw people outside in the evening and adds visual appeal that you can enjoy from inside your home. Snow-covered pillars and walls can make beautiful accents to your property in the winter months.



POOL DECKS

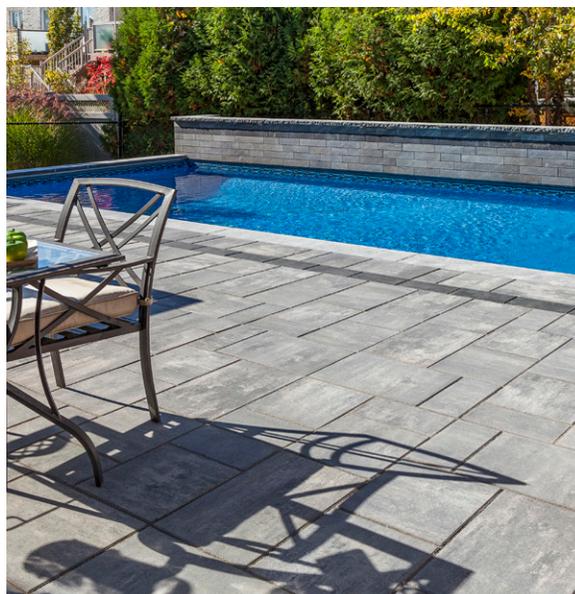
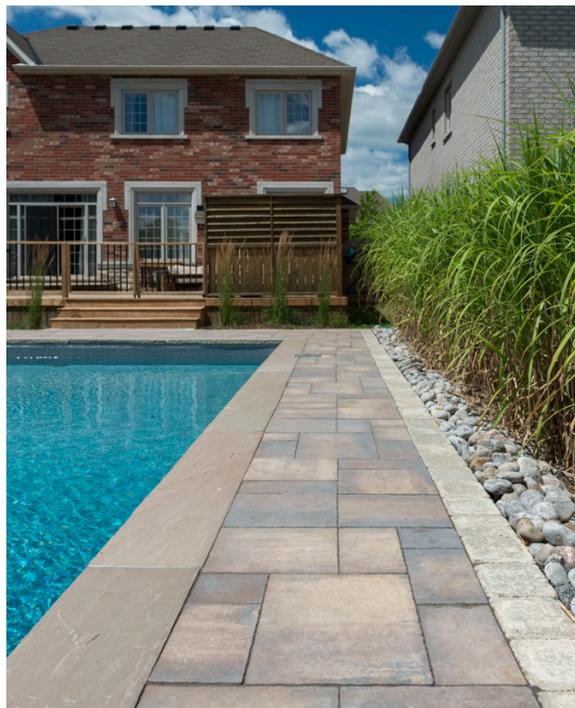
DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

SIZE MATTERS

When planning your pool deck, **four feet is the minimum perimeter** around the pool for basic access. However, if you intend to use the pool deck as a patio for entertaining or sunbathing, you'll need to increase this significantly. Be sure to keep in mind the size of your outdoor furniture; it's typically much bigger than indoor furniture!

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

The paver you choose for your pool deck deserves special consideration because you'll be **walking on it in your bare feet!** Be sure to choose a color that **won't absorb too much heat** from the summer sun. A smoother surface is pleasing to walk on, but make sure it's sufficiently **non-slip**. Umbriano® is our most popular choice for pool decks. For the coping around the edge of the pool, avoid products with abrasive edges. A contrasting coping color or inset border is also something to consider, as it helps define the pool edge.



DRIVEWAYS

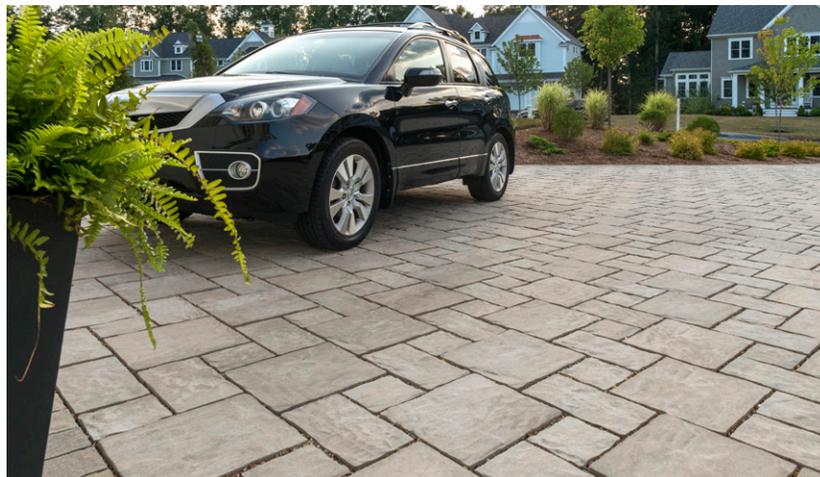
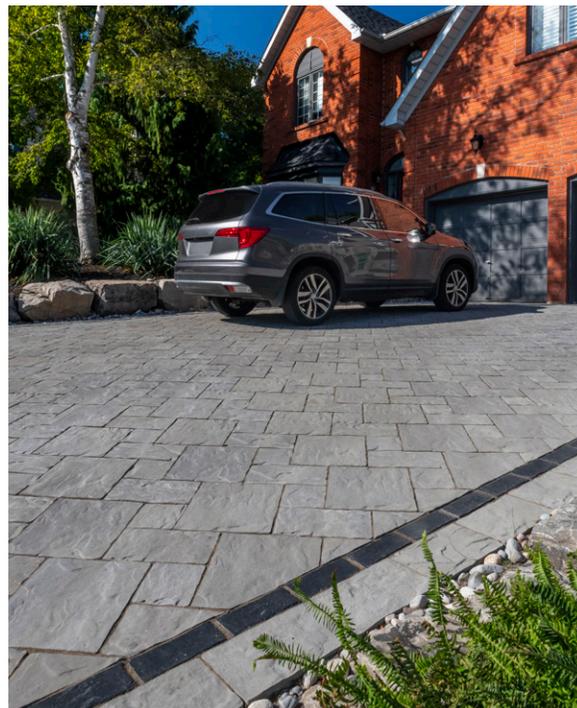
DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

CURB APPEAL

A paver driveway is **an investment that adds instant curb appeal** and value to your home. When choosing a paver product it's generally a good idea to complement the main color of your home rather than to try to match it. Then, consider borders and accents to draw out specific colors from your home and create continuity. Consider adding vertical features like pillars, planters and decorative walls to further enhance the beauty of your driveway.

THINK GREEN

Permeable pavers **allow rainwater to flow between the joints**, through special base materials and into the subsoil below. This reduces puddling on the driveway surface when it rains, and reduces ice build-up in winter. It also provides a dual "green" benefit; not only does it reduce the amount of water that flows into storm sewers but it also provides moisture to surrounding plant material.



ENTRANCES

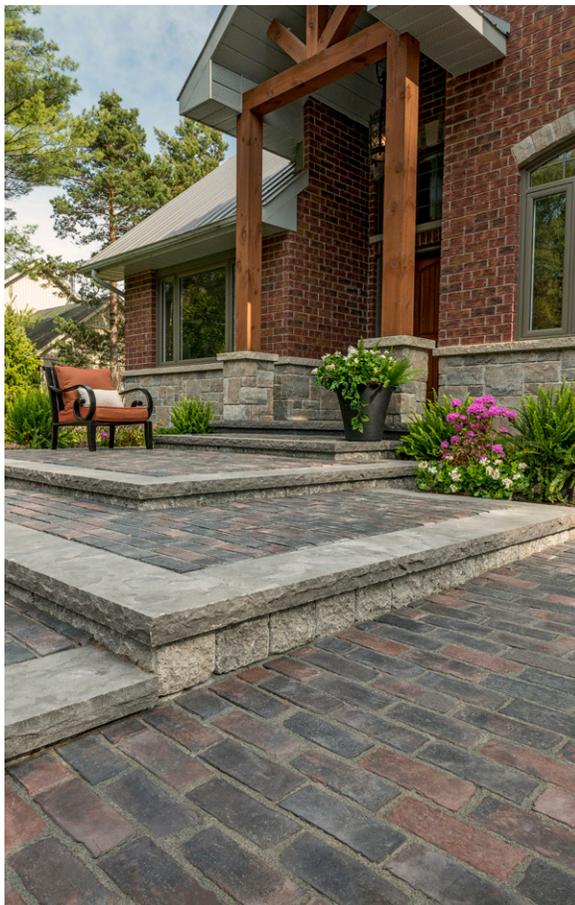
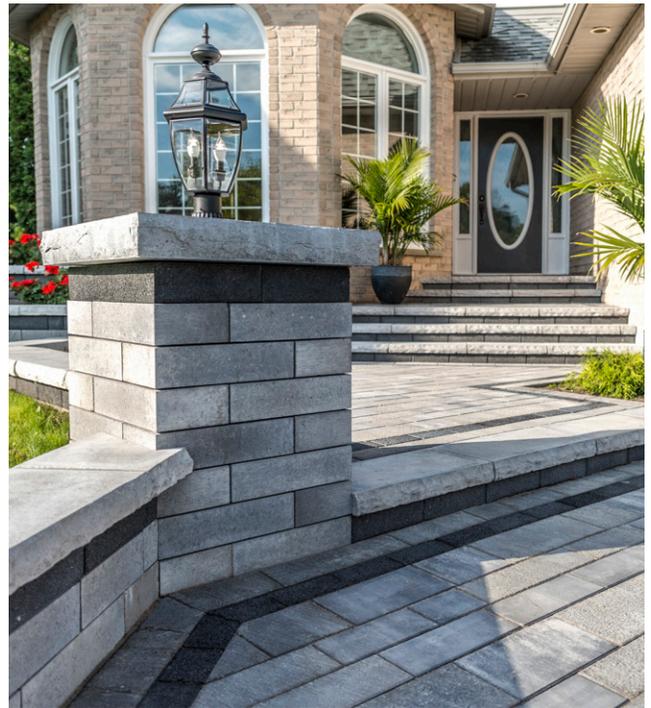
DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

WELCOME GUESTS

A great looking front entrance gives guests a warm welcome. Attractive steps that are wide enough to easily navigate, **low garden walls and planter boxes**, and smartly placed lighting all contribute to a cozy feeling that smooths the transition from the street to your home. As a general rule, the minimum width for any walkway is four feet.

A PLACE TO SIT

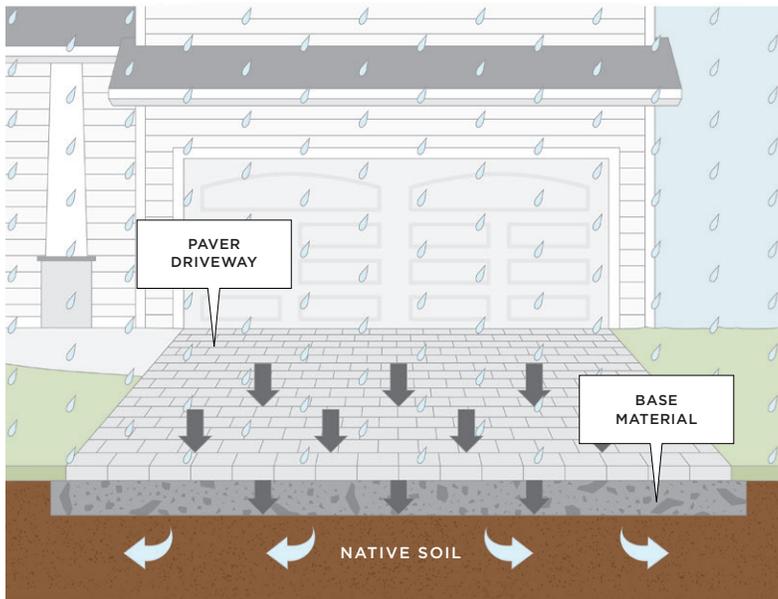
Even a modest front yard can usually accommodate a small courtyard seating space, where a morning coffee can be enjoyed or parents can observe their children playing with neighborhood friends.



PERMEABLE PROJECTS

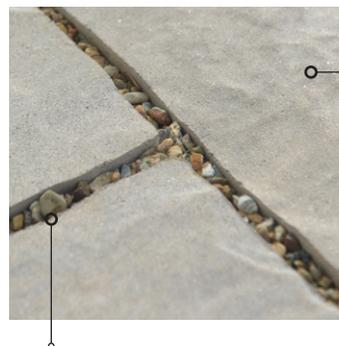
More and more homeowners are installing **permeable** paver projects to help direct rainwater away from storm sewer systems and back into the **natural ecosystem**.

Visit Unilock.com to find a permeable paver product that's suited for your project!



Some homeowners install rainwater collection systems underneath their paver projects to supply water to in-ground sprinkler systems!

Permeable pavers will accumulate less ice because water drains from the paver surface before it has time to freeze.



The pavers used in a permeable installation look similar to traditional pavers, but are made with extra space between them so rainwater can more easily flow back into the earth below.

Special materials are used in the permeable base and joints to encourage water to flow through.

VISUALIZING YOUR DESIGN

VISIT A UNILOCK OUTDOOR IDEA CENTER

Only Unilock offers Outdoor Idea Centers that can provide great real-life, full scale project ideas and one-on-one support when it comes time to select product.

SEE an expansive display of **Unilock products** in a **life-size** outdoor setting.

TALK to our **knowledgeable staff** to plan the outdoor space you're dreaming about.

TAKE FREE samples of Unilock paver and wall products home with you.

Visit Unilock.com for location and hours.



3D Rendering



Completed Job



WE CAN HELP YOU SEE YOUR PROJECT IN 3D!

While many contractors and designers still prefer to draw by hand, more and more plans are being created digitally and in 3D.

Call **1-800-UNILOCK** or visit **Unilock.com** to take advantage of our Unilock Authorized Contractor referral program. We'll take the time to understand your project, and will match you with a local contractor who offers a 3D design service and is guaranteed to do the job right.

CONCRETE AT ITS BEST



GOOD CLASSIC

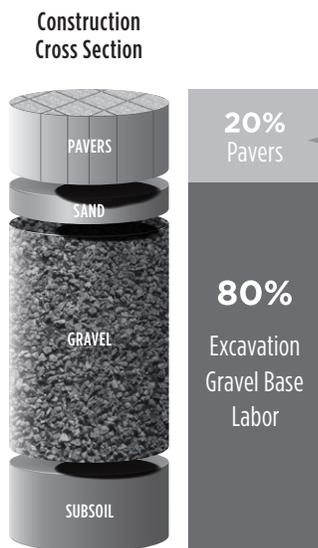
Our budget-friendly, Unilock Classic pavers and walls are manufactured to exceed ASTM standards for quality and strength. Available in classic shapes and styles, these products utilize a traditional **product mix of large and small aggregates** that's consistent from top to bottom with color mixed throughout.

BETTER ENDURACOLOR™

The refined surface of Unilock EnduraColor products is achieved with a **two-step manufacturing process** that combines a base of coarser aggregates for a **stronger foundation**, with concentrated color and **wear-resistant finer aggregates on top**. This process protects the surface from the appearance of fading over time because the top layer prevents large, lighter color aggregates from ever showing through.

BEST ELEGANCE™

Deep, rich colors and a multitude of unique **Reala™ textures** combine to deliver the timeless beauty of Unilock Elegance. From the timeworn look of European cobblestones, to the classic luxury of riven natural stone slabs, our Elegance collection offers styles you can't get anywhere else, and thanks to Ultima Concrete, the look you purchase is the look that will last, with up to **4x the strength** of poured-in-place concrete.



DON'T COMPROMISE

The cost of pavers is only a small portion of the overall project budget.

UNILOCK® EXCLUSIVE TECHNOLOGIES



COLORFUSION™

Color and granite particles are randomly dispersed using proprietary ColorFusion Technology to achieve a unique mottled surface that resembles natural granite.



EASYS CLEAN™

Unlike after-market sealers which merely coat the top, EasyClean goes beyond the surface and becomes integral to the product during manufacturing. The result is enhanced surface color and protection from stains.



REALA™

A multitude of natural stone surfaces, brick and historic cobblestones were cast to create Unilock products utilizing RealA technology. The result is a wide variety of authentic textures with consistent dimensions which are more cost-efficient to install.

Unilock Town Hall® pavers are built to last



Deteriorating clay brick pavers exposed to deicing salt

ULTIMA™

Only Unilock has the technology to manufacture Ultima Concrete here in North America, resulting in pavers with up to four times the strength of poured concrete. The look you purchase is the look that will last.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT TIPS



1 BUDGET

Ask your contractor to provide **good/better/best versions** of the project, or perhaps a budget that phases your project into several stages. Some contractors can even offer **payment plans** so you don't have to pay for your project right away.



2 TIMELINE

Be sure to tell your contractor if there is a **deadline** by which the project absolutely must be completed. Rainy weather sometimes impacts the timing of projects, so be sure to understand what happens in the event of a delay.



3 GROUND RULES

Your contractor's crew will be on your property on a daily basis. Agree to **ground rules** before the project begins. What time will work begin and end each day? What is their daily clean-up routine? Where will products and equipment be stored on the site? Will they require access to your home or garage?



4 COMMUNICATION

Establish in advance **who to contact if you have concerns** and how often you'd like your contractor to provide you with updates. If you notice something that doesn't look right on your project, be sure to let your contractor know right away.



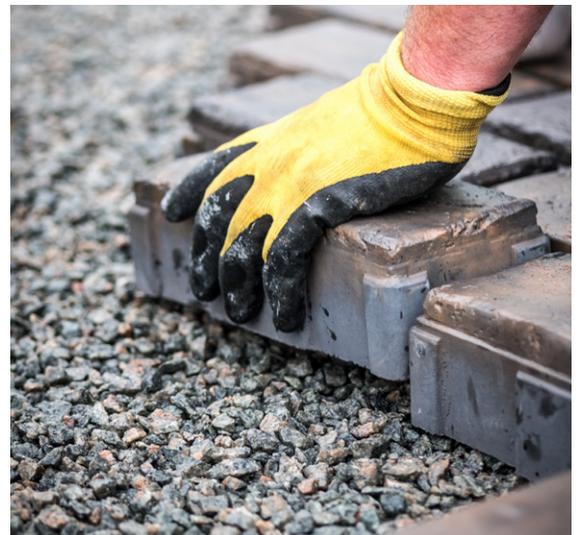
5 CHANGES

Even the best managed projects occasionally run into unforeseen circumstances. Be sure to understand the contractor's procedure for handling changes.



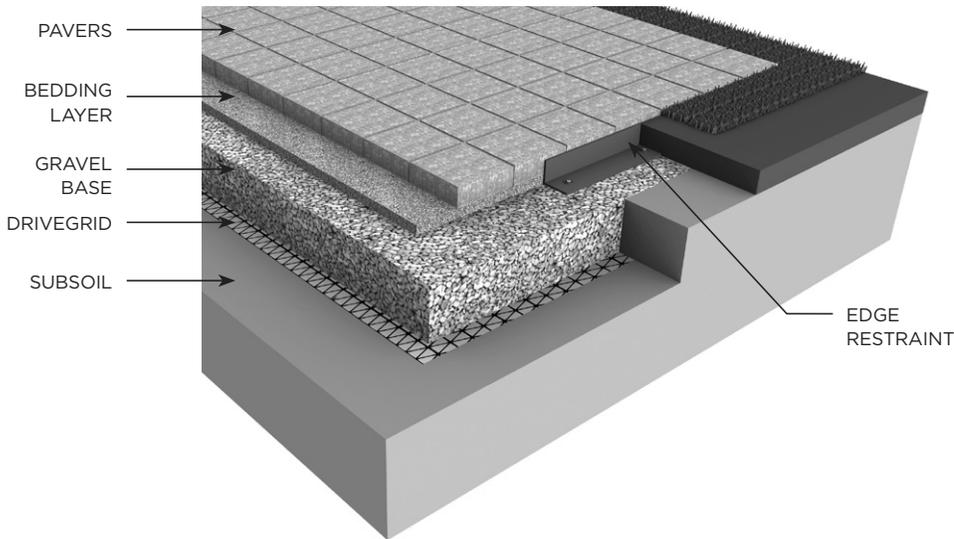
6 PROJECT WRAP UP

If you're happy with the completed project, be sure to recommend your contractor to friends and neighbors, and **don't forget to register for your Unilock product warranty** at [Unilock.com](https://www.unilock.com).



UNDERSTANDING

PAVER INSTALLATION



TYPICAL PAVER BASE THICKNESS	
Application	Gravel Base
Patios	6" - 8" (15 - 20 cm)
Walkways	6" - 8" (15 - 20 cm)
Pool Decks	6" - 12" (15 - 30 cm)
Driveways	10" - 14" (25 - 35 cm)

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

BEDDING - Use a coarse concrete with a crusher run gravel base or 1/8" chip stone (HPB) with a 3/4" clear stone base

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)



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.



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.



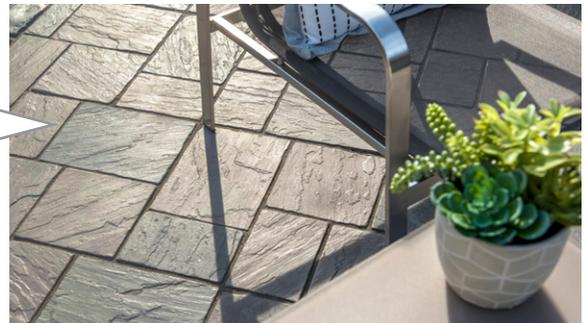
10 JOINT MATERIAL

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.

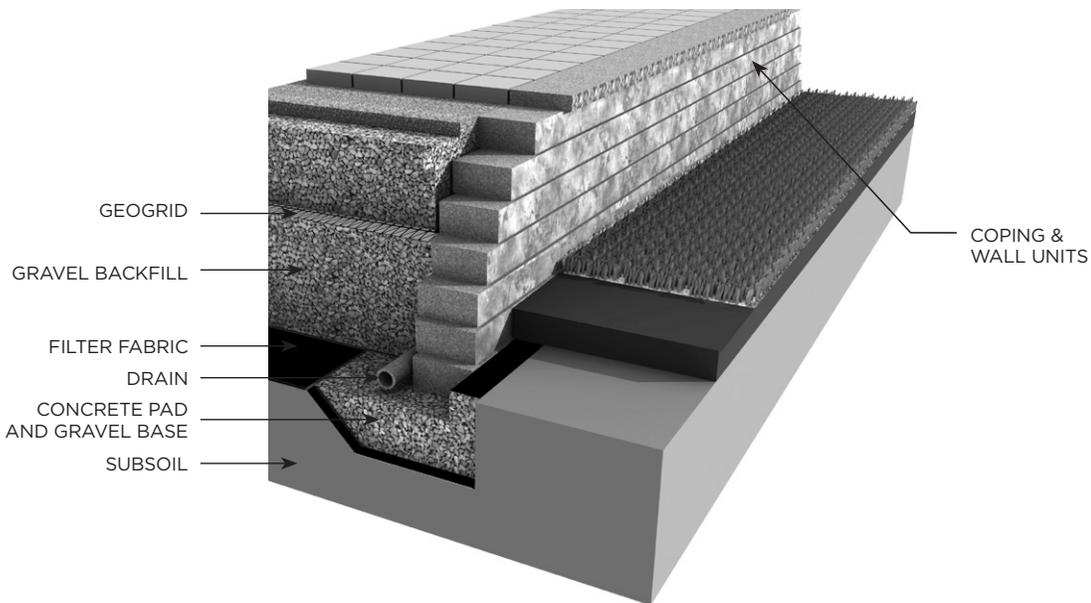


11 SEALING

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.



UNDERSTANDING WALL INSTALLATION



WALL BASE THICKNESS		
Application	Gravel Base	Backfill
Walls	6" (15 cm)	12" (30 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

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.



3 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.



4 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.



5 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.



6 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.



FINDING A GREAT CONTRACTOR

The most important decision of all is choosing the right contractor for the job. We want to help you find a great contractor because even the best designs and materials can be compromised by poor installation and workmanship.

WHY CHOOSE A UNILOCK AUTHORIZED CONTRACTOR?

- ✓ They construct all projects in accordance with the Unilock Installation Standards
- ✓ They follow the Unilock Authorized Contractor Code of Ethics
- ✓ They keep their skills up-to-date by participating in continuing education courses
- ✓ **MINIMUM TWO-YEAR** workmanship guarantee backed by Unilock



WORKMANSHIP GUARANTEE

Unilock Authorized Contractors are required to offer a **MINIMUM TWO-YEAR GUARANTEE ON THEIR WORKMANSHIP.*** If an Authorized Contractor fails to deliver on this guarantee, Unilock will step in and back it up. We call it the **PEACE-OF-MIND WORKMANSHIP GUARANTEE** and we offer it on the work of all our Unilock Authorized Contractors.

This motivates us to ensure that we have only the very best contractors in the program, and it gives those contractors a selling advantage when they can tell homeowners that **Unilock stands behind their workmanship. Other contractors can't say this!**



*Visit Unilock.com for guarantee details.

NEED HELP FINDING A CONTRACTOR?

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