### 4. Placing the Edging
Edging is important to prevent sideways movement of pavements, and to stop edging material working out.

**Edging options**
- Soldier Course of either standing or flat pavers (see Illustration 3).
- Paving Edge – segmented curbing.
- Paving Edge – concreted, underground PVC strip.

**Heel test** leaves distinct heel leaves and nor heel leaves

**Walking & Heel Test**
Walking leaves distinctive footsteps nor heel leaves.

**EXCAVATION EXAMPLE**

*BASE COURSE MATERIAL*
- Should be crushed rock including particles of all sizes.

**BASE COURSE MATERIAL**
- Should be coarse river sand (not beach sand), and damp but not wet.

**Bedding Sand** supports your pavers, but will not hide irregularities in the base course layer.
- It should contain no soil or plant material.
- Lay geotextile fabric first where soft clay, which might push into and (below finished paving level) 215mm

**TOLERANCE**
- 75mm base material
- 50mm base material
- No base material required, just sand

**TOTAL EXCAVATION DEPTH**
- Above finished paving level
- 215mm

**5. Preparing the Bedding Sand Base**
Bedding sand supports your pavers, but will not hide irregularities in the base course layer.

**6. Laying the Pavers**

1. Start from the straightest convenient edge, and lay your pavers with a space of 2mm to 3mm between them. Some pavers have spacer block which automatically the space above joint sand to prevent gaps between the pavers. Always start at the bottom of sloped areas.
2. Lay all pavers flat then cut and lay any pieces. Cut pavers with a diamond concrete saw, paver splitter (both available from hire centres) or for small areas, a borer.
3. Don’t run vehicles over the paving until it’s completely finished. To get a finished look, choose a laying method that allows you to run your board on running boards.

**7. Compacting the Pavers**

Your pavers now need to be consistently compacted over the whole area. Include pavers. Always start at the bottom of sloped areas.

**Maintenance**

In most cases maintenance will be minimal. If some pavers settle unevenly, or if underground services need to be exposed, your paving may require relaying.

- To do this simply, follow the procedures given above.
- If you have already laid a Soldier or Kerb course, you may be able to use this to support your pavers. If the area to be paved is too wide you’ll need to drive a peg, and you’ll need to cut and lay any pieces. Cut pavers with a diamond concrete saw, paver splitter (both available from hire centres) or for small areas, a borer.

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**Mowing & Edging**

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GETTING STARTED

Do you want a more interesting and durable approachway to your property? Concrete pavers are a practical way to lay hard-wearing paths, patios, courtyards and driveways, without just pouring plain concrete. Pavers can be laid in stages, and even better, they can be lifted if drains, cables or pipes underneath ever need servicing.

Let’s Make a Plan

Do a scale drawing of the area you want to pave. From that, estimate the quantities you need. Remember, some extra materials will be required for cutting, depending on the size and shape of the area you’re paving.

Idea & Inspiration

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Materials

Say all your pavers from one place and from the same batch if possible, to avoid differences in colour that can result from different batches. If you can’t buy all in one batch, mix the pavers up before laying. Please note: pavers may also display a “whitening” otherwise known as an efflorescence effect: This is a characteristic of many masonry products and does diminish over time. If you have any trouble working out the quantities of each paver you need, PlaceMakers offers a free estimation service.

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Choosing the Right Paver

Choosing the Right Paver

Here are some suggestions on how to choose the right pavers for your situation:

- Weight of Traffic
- Paver shape and size
- Laying pattern

Ordering and Sorting Materials

On smaller sites, piles of materials can crowd the area you want to pave. If that’s the case, take delivery of the later stage materials only as you are ready to use them. That means digging out and laying the base course material first, then get the bedding sand and pavers delivered.

Dry Cast Paving

Dry Cast Paving

1. Digging Out

- a) Determine the finished level of the highest part of your paving. Against buildings, that should be at least 150mm below the level of concrete floors, or the ground level under timber floors. From there, your paving should slope between 15mm to 30mm per metre away from the building. This prevents puddling or running under buildings.
- b) Dig out the area to be paved to the combined depth of the three layers, i.e. pavers depth plus bedding sand and base course depth.

2. Preparing the Sub-grade

- a) Base course is the only variable. It is the foundation of your paving. The thickness of the base course depends on the firmness of the underlying ground, or “sub-grade”. There is a 30mm threshold between soft sub-grade and “hard sub-grade”. If it is softer than 30mm, we recommend placing it in stages, with each stage of 30mm.

Tools

- Tape measure
- Spirit level
- Pencil
- Draw boarding
- Stringlines
- Plate compactor (hired)
- Shovel
- Joint sand
- Weed matting (optional)
- Broom
- Screed board
- Rake
- Concrete saw/Paver splitter/Bolster (hired)
- Basketweave
- Stretcherbond
- Herringbone

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