



FLAGSTONE INSTALLATION

How to Mortar Set a Pathway or Patio

STEP 1:

Determine the size of your patio by staking it out with a string line and taking into consideration the type and thickness of your stone.

STEP 2:

Excavate the area to a depth of 6"–7".

STEP 3:

Lay a 2" base of $\frac{3}{4}$ " or $1\frac{1}{2}$ " minus base rock and compact it thoroughly.

STEP 4:

Form, pour and screed a 3" pad of concrete. When the cement is beginning to set, take a coarse broom or steel rake and roughen the surface to aid in the adhesion of the mortar bed and stone.

STEP 5:

Lay a 1" mortar* bed, screed level. Screed only as much mortar as you can lay stone on before the mortar begins to set. Stones should be free of any dirt or debris. Apply a neat cement** to the back of each stone just before laying. Set your stone, leveling as you go. Tap stones



with a rubber mallet to level and provide consistent contact with the mortar bed. Compensate for the variations in the thickness by adding or removing mortar as you go. Try to keep your joint spaces about $\frac{3}{4}$ " or so and avoid long, continuous joint lines.

STEP 6:

Grout*** joints with a float. Clean excess grout from stone with a damp sponge before grout sets.

How to Install Flagstone in Crushed Base Rock



STEP 1:

Determine the size of your patio, by staking it out with a string line and taking into consideration the type and thickness of your stone.

STEP 2:

Excavate the area to allow for a 3" layer of $\frac{3}{4}$ " minus, and a 1"– $1\frac{1}{2}$ " layer of $\frac{1}{4}$ " minus and the thickness of your stone.

STEP 3:

Lay out edging for the patio or walkway using ledge stone, plastic edging or concrete curb.

STEP 4:

Using $\frac{3}{4}$ " minus base rock (or $1\frac{1}{2}$ " minus if drainage is a concern), lay a $1\frac{1}{2}$ " layer and compact using a tamper or plate compactor. Then repeat this step adding another $1\frac{1}{2}$ " layer on top and compact again. Finally, on top of this lay out a $1\frac{1}{2}$ " thick layer of fine $\frac{1}{4}$ " minus as a bed for your stones.

STEP 5:

If your stone is of varying thickness, add or remove the $\frac{1}{4}$ " minus as you go, keeping the stones level with each other and your border.

STEP 6:

Fill the joints between the stone with $\frac{1}{4}$ " minus or screened decomposed granite while sweeping and watering as you go. This step will have to be repeated until you are satisfied with the finish or you can use a polymeric wide joint sand stabilizer. You may also elect to fill with conditioned topsoil between the stone joints and plant a ground cover if that is the look you desire.

* Mortar should be 1 part portland cement and 4 to 5 parts damp sand by volume with just enough water to form a loose ball.

** Neat cement should be portland cement and water in a cake batter consistency

*** Grout should be 1 part portland cement to 3 parts sand with water to mortar consistency.



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