



Glossary of Paving Terminology

Abrasion: The grinding away of a pavers surface with the use of a mechanical tool.

Absorption: When a weight of water is permeated or soaked into a paver unit. Often referred to as a 'rate of absorption' or as a percentage.

Aggregate: Used for base materials and mixed in with cement to make concrete, it usually consists of crushed stone, gravel and sand.

Angularity: Describes the shapes and sharpe edges of the aggregate and sand consistency, used for base materials.

Aspect Ratio: The length of a paver unit divided by the thickness of the paver unit.

Base or Base Material: A layer of aggregate, of particular thickness, to suite the installation requirements. It is laid after your sub-base has been prepared, and before your sand bedding is implemented. It provides support to the sand and pavers, particularly when compacted intensely.

Bedding Sand: This layer contains coarsely-grained concrete sand, which provides a setting bed for paver units. The sand bedding is always leveled, for a smooth surface.

Blending Pavers: Applying the use of two or more colored pavers.

Chamfer: A beveled edged paver, which allows water drainage, snow removal and reduces the occurrence of chipping pavers.

Compaction: The use of a piece of equipment to intensely pack soil, base material and sand bedding. Often using a powered tamper or plate compactor.

Compressive Strength: The measured resistance of pavers to loads, referred to in pounds per square inch, and newtons per square millimeter.

Concrete Pavers: Paving units made from concrete, available in a variety of sizes and shapes, and can be laid in many patterns and designs.

Concrete Sand This is a type of washed sand, quite coarse, used for aggregates and bedding sands.

Course: A row of pavers.

Dry Mix Joint Sand Stabilizer: This is a chemical treatment for joint sand, which enables them to stabilize when overflowed with water, prevent weed growth and

reduce its permeability.

Edge Paver: Can be bought ready made with a straight side or can be cut straight.

Edge Restraint: An edging that provides support and holds pavers in place, can be hidden or exposed.

Efflorescence: The white hazy discharge, consisting of calcium carbonate. It appears on the surface of your pavements, it is a natural occurrence, reacting to the materials used in the pavement. It can disappear over time, or there are cleaning products that will help to eliminate the problem.

Eyebrow Effect: When the retaining wall cap overhangs the wall to create a slight shadow.

Finished Grade: Or finished elevation refers to the final elevation of the base, soil or pavement.

Flexible Pavement: A pavement that maintains and allows for the distribution of loads to the subgrade.

Freeze-Thaw Durability: Depicts how well pavers stand up to freeze-thaw cycles, water saturation and salt filtration.

Frost Heave: The lifting up of pavers due to the effects of ice, accumulation and expansion.

Geogrids: Placed between the soil and the base material to reduce rutting, by providing soil stability under heavy loads. They can be two dimensional and three dimensional.

Geotextiles: Made from woven and unwoven plastic fibers, and used for the separation and protection and drainage between the layers of paved surfaces.

Grade: (noun) usually expressed in percentages, it is the slope of a finished surface; (verb) is to finish off the surface with a piece of equipment or by hand.

Herringbone Pattern: Is a type of pattern in which pavers can be laid, in either 45" or 90" rotation, where the joints are no longer than 1 ½ pavers.

Interlock: The inability of pavers to move independently. When pavers are interlocked, there is frictional forces between them, which prevent them from moving alone. Interlocking allows the bearing of heavy loads to be dispersed throughout the pavement.

Interlocking Pavement: A system of paving, where each paver unit is laid in an interlocking pattern, compacted; the joints filled with sand, and then compacted again to start interlock.

Joint: The spaces between paver units which are typically filled with sand.

Joint Filling Sand: the process where sand is used to fill spaces between the pavers.

Joint Sand Stabilizer: A liquid solution that promotes joint sand stabilization, and prevents weeds growing, loosing sand and reduces the permeability of the joint sand.

Joint Sand: Sand that is swept into the openings between the pavers to fill up the joints.

Joint Spacing: The distance between the sides of the pavers.

Laying Pattern: The sequence in which the pavers are installed, creating a geometric pattern. There are many patterns available to choose from.

Lift: A layer of compacted soil fill or aggregate.

Multi-Colored Paver (Color Blend): A paver that has a combination of two or more colors.

Paver Extractor: A tool used to pick a paver and remove it from the surface.

Paver Splitter: Used for the cutting of pavers, may be hand operated or machine operated, and is sometimes hydraulically assisted.

Permeability: The rate at which water passes through the soil, usually measured in a laboratory.

Plate Compactor: Used to compact soils, base materials, sand beddings and pavers, to promote interlocking. Otherwise known as a plate vibrator.



Precast Concrete Pavers: manufactured paving stones, made from sand, gravel, pebbles and cement.

Screeding: The action of leveling a sand bedding, using wood or metal pieces to assist.

Screenings: A residual product, usually a by-product of crushed; rock, cobble, gravel or concrete. Not suitable for the sand bedding.

Sealer: A liquid solution which coats and protects your pavers and pavements. Sealers help with waterproofing, color enhancing and stain removal.

Soil Stabilization: Treatments to increase the stabilization of a mass of soil. Can be chemically treated, or mechanically treated with the use of geogrids and geotextiles.

Soldier Course: Creating a border around your patio with pavers going the same direction, either in the same color as the patio or in a contrasting color to create interest.

Standing Screed: An aluminum screed with handles, which allows the person to pull it across the sand bedding, whilst standing up.

Sub-base Commonly made from stone pieces, larger than that in the base materials. It is a layer of particular thickness, placed on a subgrade, giving support to the base material.