



What you'll need:

- [Paving Slabs](#)
- [Spirit level](#)
- [String](#)
- [Cement](#)
- [Sand](#)
- [Rake](#)
- [Builder's square](#)
- [Sub-base](#)
- [Bucket](#)
- [Rubber mallet](#)
- [Spade](#)
- [Sponge](#)
- [Wheelbarrow](#)
- [Tarpaulin](#)
- [Broom](#)
- [Brick jointer](#)
- [Brick trowel](#)

Step 1. Planning out your new patio

First things is to decide where your patio is going to be situated. Draw up a detailed plan, make sure it's to scale and include all the dimensions of your new [patio](#).

Mark out all of the areas which affect the patio such as, the house, walls, [fencing](#), manholes and any trees or large plants which can't be relocated.

You must take into consideration that your new [patio](#) must have a gradual slope away from the house to ensure all water drains off. This should be a drop of about 2.5cm in every 1.5m, if this isn't achievable then make sure you install a drainage channel between the house/wall and patio. Allow 1cm-3cm between [slabs](#), [natural stone](#) or heavily riven slabs. Leave 1cm-1.5cm for straight edge slabs.

If you need any further advice, or are unsure of any of the processes outlined in this guide, please do not hesitate to get in contact.



Step 2. Measuring up for your patio

Calculate the area of your patio in square metres.

Each pack of [paving slabs](#) shows the area it covers. If you plan on using a single size [patio packs](#), you'll need to divide the area of your patio by the area covered by one pack to see how many packs you need. We recommend allowing 10% extra on your slab coverage to allow for any breakages that may occur or cuts.



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Step 3. Marking out the patio area

Transfer your plan as accurate as you can to the ground using a can of [line marker string/builders line](#), [wooden pegs](#) and a [builder's square](#).

Mark out the lines on the [wooden pegs](#) to show the depth of the finished level of your [hardcore](#), [bedding mortar](#) and [patio slabs](#).

Make sure your marks for the top of the surface are level with any existing paving and manhole covers.





Step 4. Preparing the base

Remove any turf, plants, weeds or paving and dig down to a depth of roughly 150mm (6") this will allow for the foundations.

Now its time to lay a solid base for your [paving slabs](#), firstly you need a layer of [hardcore](#) at a depth of about 50mm to preferably 80mm over the whole area of the patio. Use a rake to distribute the hardcore, evening out any bumps. Stamp down or use a whacker plate / petrol whacker to compact the base. Then add a layer of [bedding mortar](#) over the compacted hardcore. You'll need to take into consideration the depth of your chosen slab. This depth will be taken away from the depth of your [mortar bed](#).



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Step 5. Laying down your paving slabs

Be sure to buy all your [paving slabs](#) at the same time so you don't get variations in texture and colour.



Before you lay down any slabs, check with your [builder's square](#) that the [string lines](#) are square to the house. If they aren't you will need to re-adjust and move your line to suit.



Start by laying down the first slab against the house at the first corner, make sure to check it's aligned with the [string line](#). It is important to make sure the first slab must be positioned accurately.



Gently tap the slab down to the correct level with a [rubber mallet](#). Be careful not to use excessive force as this could break your slab. If it's set too high scrape some mortar out and re tap down. Use a straight, flat block of wood to protect the slab from any damages. Check the alignment of the slab with a spirit level, allowing for the slope away from the house.

Continue this process step by step for each slab until you have laid all the [paving slabs](#).



Once you've laid all the slabs re check all your levels, as it's easier to rectify any mistakes now rather than when the mortar has set.

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Step 6. Pointing your slabs.



Once your slabs are laid, leave the [mortar](#) to set for at least 24 hours before pointing the gaps between them. This stops your slabs from moving and prevents weeds from growing.

To make your [pointing mortar mix](#), use a semi-dry mixture consisting of 4 parts [building sand](#) to 1 part [cement](#). Make sure the mortar is only just wet – this will prevent shrinkage.

Alternatively use [Easy Joint](#), jointing compound which is far easier and quicker to use but slightly more expensive. This is a [brush](#) in compound used with water, with instructions supplied on every tub for customer ease.



Adjust the mortar consistency by adding more water if it's far too dry or more [sand and cement](#) if it's too wet.

Press the mortar into the gaps with the edge of a [trowel or pointing tool](#). [Brush](#) away any surplus mortar before it's completely dry with a semi-stiff brush. This will make sure you do not have any staining on your slabs. Finally, wash the slabs with a damp sponge and water to remove any leftover cement before it has dried.



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Step 7. Maintaining your patio

Before sealing your [patio](#), check the manufacturer's recommendations. Make sure you wait for all salt to evaporate from the cement used in the mortar bed and pointing compound. Salt evaporation are white patches or marks that will present themselves over the surface of the slabs. If you seal the slabs before the salt evaporation process is complete, you will seal the salt underneath the sealant and this can be a costly mistake.

Use a pressure washer on a low setting to clean your patio. Try to always point the end at an angle facing away from the surface of your new slabs and don't use it too close to the slabs or you'll risk damaging the surface.

Be sure to pop in store for any after care products such as [mould and algae treatment](#) and also [black spot remover](#) treatment.



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