

# How To: INSTALL A PAVER PATIO

**Skill Level:** INTERMEDIATE Give these projects a try if you're a confident DIYer with a good working knowledge of a variety of tools. They can take a day or more to complete. If you can build a birdhouse or install a ceiling fan, your skill level is probably appropriate.

## **MATERIALS**

- Pavers
- Rubber Mallet
- Level
- Wheelbarrow
- Paver Sand—you may have some left from the base
- Rented Diamond Blade Masonry Wet Saw
- Garden Hose
- Chalk or a Mason's Crayon
- Safety Goggles
- Work Gloves
- Ear Protection
- Dust Mask
- Plastic Retaining Edge
- Hammer
- Chisel
- Spikes
- Broom
- Shovel
- Plate Compactor
- Stone Sealant—if required
- Knee Pads—optional

# INSTALLING THE PAVERS

## 01 Start laying the pavers at the corner of the patio area and work your way toward the middle.

A patio is a great place to relax and entertain. And the actual installation

isn't very difficult. In Part One of this three-part series, we gave you some

ideas on how to design your patio. In Part Two, we showed you how to lay the foundation – an important step for a long-lasting patio. And now we'll

show you how to finish your project so you can enjoy your new patio.

- If your patio has a border, start with the first few border blocks.
- If you are installing your patio against the house, start at the base of the house.
- Set the first paver tight against the house foundation, then set the next blocks tightly against the first pavers.



# 02 You shouldn't need to level the blocks if you laid the foundation correctly, but you might want to double check.

- If a paver sits too high, gently tap it down with a rubber mallet and check it again with a level.
- If a paver sits too low, place some extra sand underneath it and gently tap it down with a rubber mallet until it's even with the surrounding stones.

#### 03 Cut the block with a masonry wet saw.

- Be sure to wear proper safety gear when cutting pavers.
- You can also use a hammer and chisel to cut the block.
  - 1. Hold the paver in place and mark the cut line.
  - 2. Use a straight edge to mark the line on all four sides of the block.
  - 3. Place the block on a flat, sturdy surface.
  - 4. Hold the chisel on the cut line with the beveled edge facing the waste side.
  - 5. Score the block by tapping the chisel with a hammer along the entire cut line.
  - 6. Hold the chisel on the mark and give it a heavy hit to break the block.
  - 7. Smooth any edges with an angle grinder or use a brick trowel to remove any rough pieces.

#### **IMPORTANT**

Installing a patio requires some lifting and cutting of stone. When working on your patio, be sure to follow local building codes. If you don't feel comfortable installing your patio, contact a professional for help.





### **LOCKING THE PAVERS IN PLACE**

- 01 Install the plastic retaining edge around the perimeter with a hammer and spikes.
  - Set it below the top surface of the patio, and make sure it is tight against the pavers.
  - Cut the retaining edge to bend around curves.



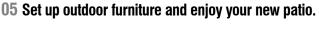
- Start from the perimeter and work toward the middle of the patio.
- Some paver manufacturers don't recommend plate compacting, so be sure to read the instructions.



- 1. Pour a generous amount of sand over the blocks.
- 2. Work the sand into the joints with a stiff broom.
- 3. Remove any excess with the broom.
- 4. Lightly mist the patio with a garden hose to help work the sand into the joints.
- 5. If you see any gaps, apply more sand and mist with water.
- 6. Repeat this process until all the joints are filled.

### FINISHING TOUCHES

- 01 Backfill the perimeter of the patio with soil.
- 02 Gently wash the surface with a garden hose.
- 03 Apply a stone sealant, if recommended by the paver manufacturer.
  - Follow the instructions regarding application and dry time.
- **04** Plant flowers, grass, or use mulch along the edge of the patio.









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