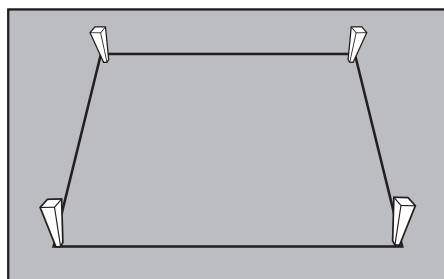# Stylish STONE

Your Guide to Laying Paving
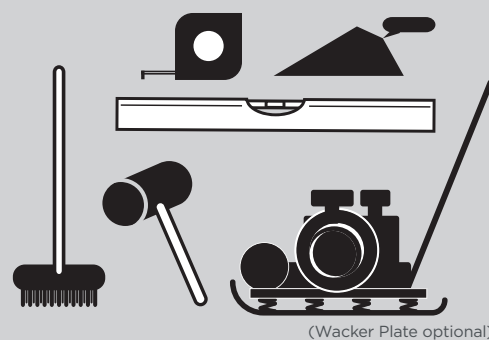
(Wacker Plate optional)

Preparation
Make sure you have the required tools to lay your paving. We also recommend the use of knee pads and gloves.

Measuring - Mark out the area of your patio and dig down approximately 100mm to 200mm.

**Sub Base -** Lay, level and compact your base using Sub Base to a thickness of about 50mm to 100mm. Compacting the base can be done by stamping with your heels across the entire area or using a mechanical Wacker Plate that can be hired easily from DIY hire shops. The depth of sub base depends on the type of usage you are anticipating.

Laying - There are two main methods for laying the paving on to the prepared base;

- Method 1. Place five trowel size blobs of mortar 4:1 ratio (4 parts sand, 1 part cement) under each paving slab onto the Sub Base and gently press or tamp down with a -rubber mallet the slab to the required depth and level using a spirit level.

- Method 2. For a much stronger job and on heavier traffic areas, we recommend using a full bed of mortar under each slab. Lay the slabs on the mortar and gently press or tamp down with a rubber mallet to the required depth and check the level using a spirit level.

Circles Kits and Feature Kits
Slabs should be laid from the centre outwards. For Random Patio Kits, work from one corner, diagonally across to the opposite corner. To ensure that the edges of the random kit remain straight, peg a string line around the edge of the area first. A spirit level should always be used after each slab is laid to ensure the correct level and the joints are evenly spaced.
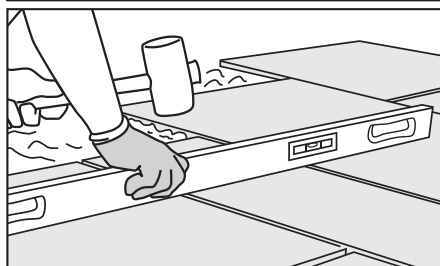

Care should be taken to immediately clean away any mortar on the face of the paving to prevent staining.

Drying - Once completed leave the patio overnight or longer if possible remembering that if you have used a mortar mixture to bed the slabs this will take time to fully harden. In frosty or wet weather, cover the newly laid paving until the mortar has set.

Pointing - There are different methods of pointing your paving depending on the finish you require;

- Method 1. We recommend using Joint Fill. Simply brush and press into the joints and allow to set.

- Method 2. Mortar mix can be carefully pushed into the joints using a fine trowel or pointing tool, this should be done in dry conditions. Ensure that any excess mortar on the face of the slab is cleaned away to avoid staining.

- Method 3. For decorative paths in light traffic areas, joints can be filled with fine grit.

Do not brush dry mortar into joints for pointing as this can cause severe staining.
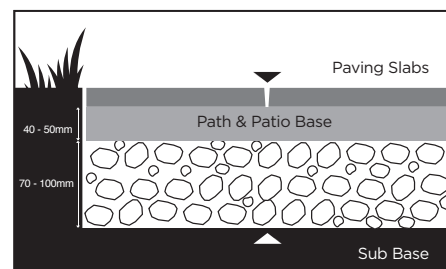
Considerations
- When calculating the depth to dig out, allow for the thickness of the paving if you want the patio to be ground level.
- If the patio is to be above ground level you must consider how to restrain the paving with edging.
- Ensure that you allow a gentle slope for water to freely drain away from buildings.
- Do not allow pointing cement to come into contact with the face of the flagstones - this will stain the face of the slabs.
- Do not use any chemical cleaning agent or wire brush on any of our products as this will significantly damage the appearance.

Colour and Weathering
Some paving is made from natural materials so colour variations will sometimes occur. The colour can also be affected by the age of the slab and natural weathering. Over time, the colours will gradually mellow, especially after a period of time exposed to the elements. Efflorescence is a white powder that can appear on the face of the slab from time to time. This can be caused by ground a and weather conditions. However, if any of the above problems occur, they can be short lived and generally disappear over time. The supplier and stockist cannot be held responsible for the changes.

Size
All kit dimensions are the approximate finished size when laid including joints.

Liability
Whilst every effort is made to give sound advice, Stylish Stone cannot accept responsibility or liability in respect of products being used for any purposes other than those for which they were intended.