



**DIY**

**START TO FINISH**

**BLOCK PAVING**

**CHEAT SHEET**

**BASED ON  
BRITISH PAVING STANDARDS**

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**DIY**

*Start to Finish*

**Block Paving**

*Cheat Sheet*

for porcelain, sandstone and other natural stone pavings

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# *Introduction*

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There are endless tutorials available online to teach you how to lay block paving as a first timer so it doesn't make any sense to create a thick 100-page detailed e-book to explain you the same things again but there are some absolutely important things that needs to be highlighted separately - like if these these 20% of things done right, it could bring 80% of the results.

Also, even with all these tutorial videos and articles, at the end of the day, you don't have definitive answers to your questions like how deep to dig out in particular ground conditions, how much sub-base is enough under paving, mortar mix ratio to use, etc. which creates the requirement of something to point you in the right direction.

The main focus of this cheat sheet is to how you can take "belt and braces" approach to give yourself the best chance to get the best outcome off of your DIY project and to make sure it not only looks good from outside but has that stability and strength inside to last for years and years to come.

There are some small things that you won't think of otherwise, which will only do good than harm for you and your project which we'll discuss in this cheat sheet.

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# Contents

## Phase 1. Excavation and groundworks

- Some things to know about laying patios to better plan the job as DIYer according to your time.
- DPC - Understanding 150mm rule and how to deal if you're not able to maintain it.
- How to determine the depth of the ground you need to dig considering vehicular traffic?

## Phase 2. Drainage & Edge restraints

- Why proper drainage is must and certain things about paving edgings.

## Phase 3. Sub-base

- Why is the sub-base most important for a driveway and how to ensure you get it done the best as a DIYer?
- Is geo-textile membrane really required under the sub-base (it's not for preventing the weeds)?

- Little opportunities we DIYers have throughout the job for better results.
- Right sub-base materials and quantity to order.
- Is 100mm MOT Type 1 wacked enough for a driveway? (Things you should know)
- How to compact the sub-base the right way (even more accurately as a DIYer). Common mistake DIY people make which can result in sinkage of the blocks down the road.

## Phase 4. Laying course

- Laying course materials
- How to take a different approach with the laying course for better results!

## Phase 5. Laying the blocks

- How to lay blocks properly?
- Dealing with cuts as a DIYer.

## Phase 6. Sanding the joints

- What type of sand to use and how much will you require?
- Some wrong beliefs!

## Phase 1. # Useful links

*If you have someone to ask, at the end of this sheet, there are some useful links. These are the links to some of the best free communities in landscaping online where a lot of exchange of knowledge happen. You could ask your queries there, and receive opinions literally from the professionals and experts who are doing this for most of their life)*

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Congrats on being an enthusiast DIYer and taking the time to do something on your own for yourself. This is going to be fun yet little challenging and maybe a bit harder on your body unless you're in a similar trade and have that experience.

Landscaping is just too expensive to learn from your mistakes or what ifs after you make them, learn from others mistakes and do most of the things right as a DIYer with this cheat sheet.

## Phase 1. Excavation & Groundwork

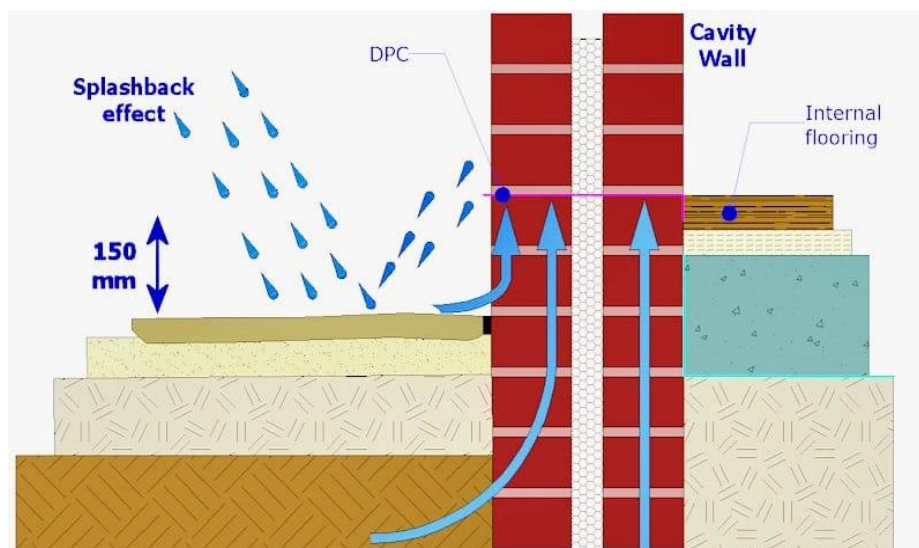
*There are certain things that goes under the pavement for it to last and prevent the block from sinking for which the ground needs to be excavated and removed to maintain the finished height of the patio (which usually is 150mm below DPC).*

Why is 150mm the recommended finished paving height below DPC?

First of all, most importantly it's in the building regulations. It's what it is for a reason and you should follow it.

It's important to maintain that 150mm (two brick courses) from DPC to finished paving level to prevent any damp or flooding issues, and prevent splashbacks of raindrops hitting the wall over the DPC level which you can see in the image below.

*(If the surveyor finds the breach of 150mm regulation, it can lead to reduced valuation when selling the property).*



## Can finished paving be less than 150mm below DPC?

150mm is the general golden rule applies to every property whether old or new. However, every property is different. New builds will have new kind of floorings and new internal methods of sealing the building.

Installers don't want to consult with the architect or check with the building control on how minimum you could go with the DPC and paving gap everytime when doing a paving, so they strictly adhere to the 150mm rule and have no trouble down the road with such sufficient gap between the paving and DPC.

However, this is a installer doing paving for others and they're liable if anything goes wrong after breaching the 150mm regulation. As a DIYer doing paving for yourself in your own house, you could change the rules to some extent.

In some cases like building into existing patio which already less than 150mm below DPC, either you've to excavate everything out or build the paving with less than 150mm gap.

If you want, up to 100mm is fine. 150mm is in the building regulations to really be on the safer side, However, if you're going more closer to the DPC like anything below 75mm is left from DPC to finished paving height then it may cause you trouble down the road.

So all the efforts should be taken to achieve at least that 100mm gap from the damp proof membrane to finished paving height.

However, if you are going higher for example, 75mm to 50mm, it would be advisable leave space (100 mm) between paving and the wall and fill in gravel to be on the safer side.

## **How deep to dig down?**

Before beginning the excavation, you have to know where the running cables and services such as water, gas or electrical lines are located. Yes you'll know if you hit something but that would be too late.



*End of the preview*



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