



DIY PATIO KIT INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Your new DIY Patio kit includes all base materials (gator base & leveling sand), patio stones, and finishing accessories (edging & polymeric sand) required to install your new patio. Follow these 7-steps of installation, and you will be left with a durable long-lasting patio that won't break your back or your bank. Additional tools are required.

STEP 1 • Excavation of the Patio Area

Total excavation depth will be determined by adding the following elements depths: Geo-fabric, compacted bedding sand's final height (1/2 in), Gator Base (3/4 in), and patio stone height (1.5 in). Total excavation width should be 6 inches (15 cm) wider on each side than the final paved area to allow room for the edge restraints. This excavation can be done using a shovel. Prior to excavating, check with local utility services to ensure digging does not damage underground pipes or wires.



STEP 2 • Levelling and compacting of the subgrade

A • Once excavation is completed, level the excavated area using a rake or shovel. Ensure a slope of at least 1 degree away from any structure, such as a house.

B • The native soil needs to be prepared and compacted, using a hand tamper or plate compactor. Tampers are available to purchase/rent from Home Depot, or your nearest tool rental facility. This area should be as smooth as possible to get rid of high or low spots. Using a string level (stakes and a string line), tie the string to the stakes to establish level according to which the final slope will be measured (minimum of 1 degree to the desired final paver level). Once the final level is achieved, proceed to step 3.



STEP 3 • Addition of Geo-Fabric, levelling and compacting bedding sand

A • Lay down the geo-fabric and cover the complete excavated area.

B • Spread an even layer of sand to a depth of 3/4 in (19 mm) over the geo-fabric. Using a straight board, level the bedding sand. Using a hand compactor and/or plate compactor, compact the 3/4 in (19 mm) of bedding sand until you obtain a final height of 1/2 in (13 mm) of compacted bedding sand, that should reflect the final paved surface.



STEP 4 • Installation of the Gator Base

Start laying the Gator Base units according to a staggered pattern while ensuring locking of the tongue & groove system. This will guarantee the panels' stability when the slabs are laid down. Make sure to install the Gator Base on the extended excavated area (the extra 6 in wider than the final paved area). Trim any visible curves or protruding angles using a utility knife.



STEP 5 • Installation of patio stones and Gator Edge

Lay the patio stones directly onto the Gator Base according to the selected pattern. Use a rubber mallet to adjust the pavers as needed. Make sure the Gator base is 6 in (15 cm) wider on each side than the paved surface. Install Snap Edge on the exposed edges of the Gator Base, making sure it rests firmly against the patio stones. Four 10 inch nails should be driven into every piece of edging, to maximize lateral support of the Snap Edge.



STEP 6 • Sweeping, Compacting and Blowing of the Polymeric Sand

A • Before applying Polymeric Sand, ensure the stones have been completely dried, with no moisture remaining on the surface of the patio stones. When emptying polymeric sand bags, spread them across the entire dry paved surface. This will avoid segregation and sweeping a mountain of sand. When sweeping the polymeric sand, spread over a small area before moving onto the next, while making sure to fill in the joints.

B • It is now time to compact the sand into the joints using a hand tamper. Do not use a plate compactor on top of patio stones as they will crack. Repeat filling and compacting of the paver joints. Finally, sweep the surface with a fine bristle broom and remove all excess sand. Ensure the sand is 1/8 in (3 mm) lower than the patio stone chamfers.

C • Finally, use a blower to blow off all sand residue lying on the patio stone surface. The combined actions of the sweeping and blowing will help eliminate any polymeric sand from hardening on the surface of your patio.



STEP 7 • Watering and Blowing Action

A • Be cautious with this step. Enough water must be applied to saturate the sand all the way through to the bottom of the stone depth, but too much water can cause the polymers to wash out of the sand. The most effective way to set the polymeric sand, is to water for a few seconds, then stop and observe. Set your hose nozzle to “shower” and evenly spray the patio stone surface at a height of 4 ft for 10 to 15 seconds, then wait 3 to 4 minutes. The watering process will activate the polymeric sand’s bonding process, and the sand will harden when dry.

** Ensure the patio stone surface does not dry between waterings **



B • Repeat the showering of the patio surface as above for a second and third time, waiting 3 to 4 minutes between each shower. However, stop watering when no more water will soak into the joints. If the work is being done on a hot summer day, avoid spraying large areas at a time, as they will dry unevenly.

C • Finally, use a blower to remove any excess water remaining on the paver surface. Again, this process eliminates any potential hazing effect. Protect freshly hardened polymeric sand with a tarp from heavy downpours within the first 24-48 hours, as the sand can dislodge. Downspouts that empty directly on a patio can also be a problem in the first few days. Try to divert this water elsewhere for a few days.

** Restrict pedestrian traffic for 24 hours. The exact amount of time will vary with weather conditions. The hotter and dryer the faster it will cure **

