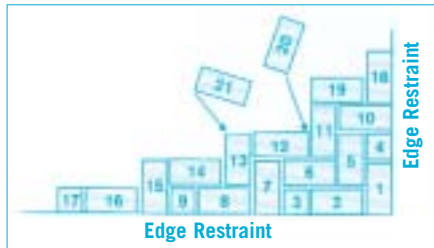


Blocklaying Patterns

The laying pattern you choose will affect not only the performance and finished appearance, but also the method of laying. For vehicular use, a pattern or bond in which the blocks interlock with each other will give the best results.

Herringbone

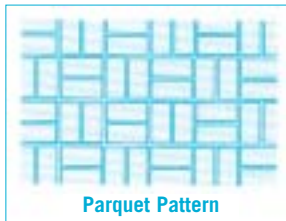
This pattern is best suited to irregular areas and is the most appropriate option for a hardstanding or drive, but requires considerable advance thought to get the laying sequence started off correctly.



Starting a herringbone pattern with blocks at 90° to the starting line

Parquet

This pattern is easiest to lay in a rectangular area, provided overall dimensions are kept in multiples of the block length, since no cutting is then required. This pattern is suitable for pedestrian use only.



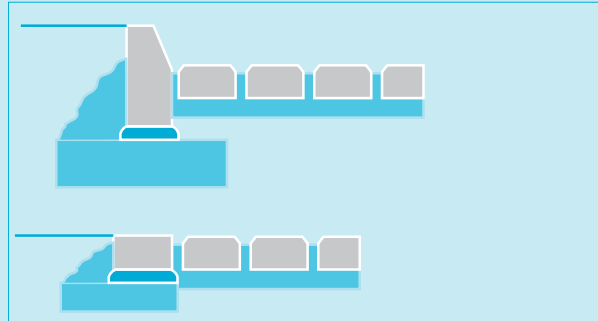
Running bond

This pattern is fairly easy to lay, but requires considerable cutting unless the particular range of blocks includes half-units or special edge blocks. Again, this pattern is suitable for pedestrian use only.



Edge Restraint for Block Paving

Firm edge restraints are essential and should be installed at the perimeter of the area to be paved to retain the paving and prevent lateral movement. Suitable edge restraints can be provided by using a precast kerb or a block bedded as shown in the sketch.



A very wide range of paving accessories including kerb blocks specifically designed for use with paviors is now available from manufacturers.

Irish Cement Series

- 1 Mixing and Placing Concrete
- 2 Blockwork and Plastering
- 3 Precast Concrete Paving
- 4 Floor Screeds
- 5 Concrete on the Farm

Advice and Information

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Using Irish Cement

Precast Concrete Paving



Precast Paving

Precast concrete paving provides not only a factory-made solution to your paving needs but also offers a much wider choice of finish, colour and pattern than in-situ concrete.

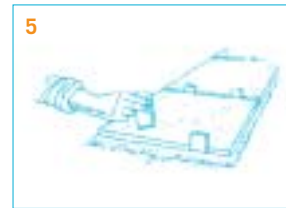
A vast range of individual styles and tastes can be catered for when planning durable driveways, attractive patios and decorative garden paths and paved areas.

The traditional paving flag or slab is widely available in different sizes and various shapes, colours and surface finishes. Individual manufacturers provide literature with illustrations and suggested patterns for their range of products.

The vast range of 'brick-size' precast concrete paving blocks (paviors) offer exciting alternatives to the larger, more traditional slab units. The combination of interlocking patterns, edge restraints and friction in the sand-filled joints permits the use of these paviors in areas subject to light traffic loading such as driveways.



- 1 Lay slabs on a prepared base marked out by stringlines.
- 2 Place mortar in 'box and cross' pattern.
- 3 Position the slab.
- 4 Tamp into place and check for height and fall.
- 5 Insert spacers to fix joint width.



Laying Paving Slabs

All loose material should be cleared from the area to be paved and the site excavated to the required depth. Dig out any soft spots and infill with suitable well-compacted gravel. The surface of this sub-base should be blinded with fine sand to achieve a smooth and even surface to within 15mm of the correct levels.

A mortar bedding should be used to lay the slabs, made from a mix of 5:1 sand:cement. An economical method of bedding is the 'box and cross' method, as shown in the sketch with the strips of mortar having an initial depth of 30-50mm.

After laying, the joints should be filled with a very dry 3:1 mortar mix well rammed in with a piece of timber or steel.

To avoid staining of the units, spillages or excess material should be cleaned immediately with a wet sponge. The dry mortar mix also helps in this regard.

Laying Paving Blocks

Initial preparation of the ground is carried out as described earlier. In areas subject to traffic a roller or plate vibrator should be used. These are readily available on hire.

Areas subject to heavy traffic will require a base layer of compacted hardcore or gravel. Block paving is laid on a layer of fine washed sand, screeded and levelled to an uncompacted thickness of 50mm (one tonne of sand will cover approx. 10m²). The top level of the sand layer should be about 10mm proud of its final finished level to allow the blocks to be compacted down into the sand. The laying of blocks can now commence, starting from a corner.

A substantial area of blocks should be laid before filling in gaps with cut blocks.

On completion of the area, a plate vibrator should be used to compact the blocks into place. Then fine dry sand should be swept over the surface and two or three passes made with the vibrator keeping sand under its leading edge to properly fill the joints.



- 1 Thoroughly compact the base.
- 2 Spread the sand layer.
- 3 Butt the blocks against each other in the chosen pattern.
- 4 Use the plate vibrator to bed the blocks in place. Then fill the joints with dry sand brushing it into place ahead of the vibrator.