

Professionals and do-it-yourself homeowners alike can install interlocking concrete pavers successfully. You will probably have to rent some tools that the average homeowner does not have. If you take your time and pay close attention to the base preparation, you will be pleased with the results.

Excavation:

Before digging, always call your local utility company to locate any underground lines.

In general terms, a minimum of 4" of compacted aggregate base is recommended for patios and walkways, and 8" for residential driveways where freeze/thaw conditions exist. Add 3" for the depth of the bedding sand and the paver thickness to determine the total depth to excavate. Excavation should be 6" wider than the finished pavements dimensions on sides where edge restraint is to be used. Slope and grade are important to ensure proper runoff. It is best to plan at least a 1/4" per foot drop, but try not to exceed 1/2" per foot.

Base Preparation:

As with any building project, the finished pavers will be only as good as the construction of the base. For this reason, this is the MOST important part of the installation process.

First, run your plate compactor over the excavated area, making sure that the soil does not get stuck to the bottom of the plate tamper. Each pass should overlap the previous one by about 4". Compaction should be performed in one direction (north-south) then a second time at a right angle (east-west) to the first compaction. It is suggested that a soil separation fabric be laid down over the compacted sub grade, especially in moist or wet areas, to separate virgin soil from the base. Now spread your stone base material out evenly in a 2" layer. If material is dry and dusty, use a garden hose to evenly moisten it down. This will help make the gravel easier to rake and faster to compact.

Starting with the outer perimeter, use the plate compactor to pack together the base, again overlapping each pass about 4" and working towards the center. You should make at least two complete passes for each layer. Repeat this process for each subsequent layer of base material until the final thickness is achieved. After final compaction, check the entire area for proper pitch and level conditions. The base should now reflect the final grade of your pavers. If you were to place a straight edge on the surface, there should be no more than a 1/4" gap at any point along the straight edge.

Edge Restraints:

The borders for your layout design may now be put into place. The edging is laid directly upon the quarry process base and secured with 10" steel spikes. One spike should be used every (2) feet for walkways and patios and every one (1) foot for driveways and radii.

Sand Setting Bed:

A setting bed of concrete sand can now be spread on top of the compacted base. Note: It is important to keep your sand dry. Always keep your sand covered in case of rain. It is suggested that you only screed sand for areas where you will be laying pavers that same day. Lay the screed guides (1" outside diameter electrical conduit, strips of wood or other suitable rigid material) on top of the compacted base material 4'-6' apart and parallel. For narrow areas such as walkways, the PVC edging can be used as a guide with a notched 2x4" board. When the pavers are set on the sand and compacted, the 1" of sand will compress to 1/2" to 5/8" thickness.

Installation of Pavers:

All projects must start at a perfect 90-degree angle. Use the 3-4-5-triangle method to establish this. For an even mix of pavers, select pavers from multiple cubes for optimum color blending. Starting from a permanent edge such as a house, driveway, or even a piece of rigid PVC edge restraint, lay your first paver starting from either side. String lines will assist in assuring straight lines. Spacing between pavers should not exceed 1/8". Set pavers lightly on the sand, never press or hammer them in. If you are doing the project over a couple of days, cover the entire area with plastic overnight if rain is expected.

Compacting and Sweeping:

Spread and sweep sand over the entire top of the pavers using a stiff bristle broom. To protect the surface of the pavers prior to compacting, lay down a mat, cardboard, thin plywood or soil separation fabric on top of the spread sand. Vibrating with a plate compactor will force the sand between the joints, stabilizing and leveling the final surface. Excess sand should be swept in the joints. Sweep again as necessary.

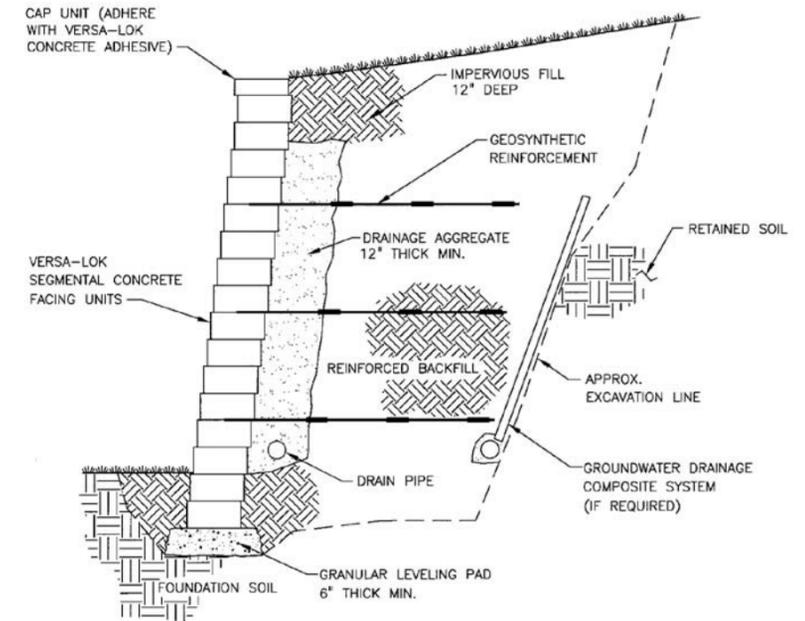
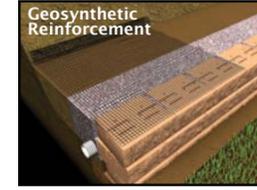
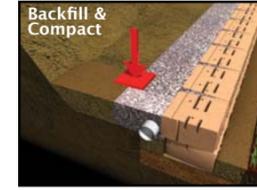
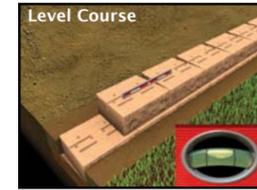
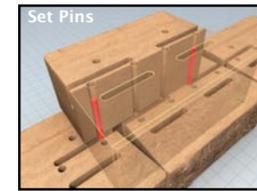
NOTE: DO NOT USE PLATE COMPACTOR ON CST WET CAST PRODUCTS.



WARNING: CST recommends the use of a protective layer between the paving stones and the plate compactor used when doing the final compaction. This will avoid scratching the surface of the pavers. The application recommended is the use of a mat, cardboard, thin plywood, carpeting or soil separation fabric. CST suggests using one of these separators with ALL of our paving lines.

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ADVERTENCIA: Se les recomienda usar una capa de protección entre medio de los tabiques y la maquina que se va a usar cuando aplasten los tabiques en el proceso final. Eston ayudara a prevenir que raspen la cara de el tabique. La aplicacion recomendada para esto es el uso de un tapete, caja de carton, una madera plana, usando una carpeta o una tela de tierra. CST sugiere que usen una de estas aplicaciones con todos sus productos. **NO UTILIZAR PLACA COMPACTADORA SOBRE CST WET CAST PRODUCTOS.**



Maximum height for an un-reinforced VERSA-LOK® wall is four feet. Individual site, soil and loading conditions (including terraces) may limit un-reinforced wall height to less than four feet. Taller walls require geosynthetic solid reinforcement and engineering assistance. For information on engineered preliminary designs, please contact your local dealer or CST representative.

1-Leveling pad preparation

VERSA-LOK® walls should be placed on a leveling pad of compacted gravel, crushed stone or coarse sand about 6" thick and 24" wide. The first course of VERSA-LOK® should be embedded below grade approximately 1/10 the of the exposed wall height. Excavate to lines and grades you've established for the wall, allowing for leveling pad and unit embedment.

2-Install base course

Place VERSA-LOK® units on prepared leveling pad. As you proceed, level each unit front to back, side to side and with adjacent units. Leveling is critical at this stage, so take your time. Align straight wall sections using a string line or by sighting down the grooves on the top of each unit. If your wall has a corner, begin at the corner and work out from there.

3-Backfill

Fill in and compact native soil behind, and in front of the base course level with the grade in front of the wall. Next, place and compact 13" of drainage aggregate behind the units.

4-Installing successive courses

Stack one course at a time. Set units back 3/4". Insert two pins in front holes of units so they fall into the rear slots of the units beneath. Tap pins down with a pin and mallet. Place and compact drainage aggregate behind each course as it is completed.

5-Geosynthetic soil reinforcement

If your wall is higher than four feet or shoulders significant loads, you will need to install geosynthetic soil reinforcement. As each course is laid, place soil reinforcement horizontally on top of compacted backfill and about one inch from the front of the VERSA-LOK® units.

6-Installing caps

Complete your wall by placing VERSA-LOK® cap units on the top course. Install caps with a slight overhang (recommended), set back or flush with the wall face. Use VERSA-LOK® concrete adhesive to secure cap units to wall.