

# THE BASICS OF SEGMENTED PAVING

Concrete pavers only form one element of the pavement area. Their prime purpose is to provide a hard-wearing top surface to the subbase beneath. They also assist in distributing the load on the ground below. Important features are -

1. The design of the **subbase**. Normally this requires professional expertise. If the ground is well compacted from previous usage, then for pathways and private driveways 100mm of 9mm crusher run will suffice.

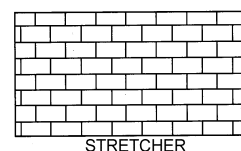
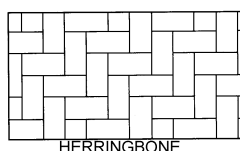
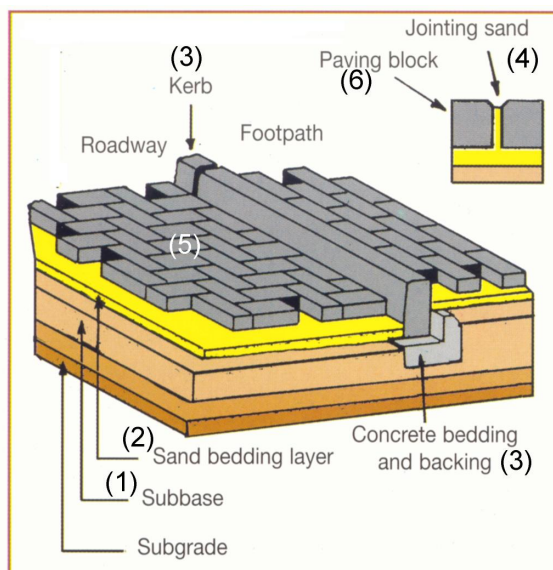
2. The sand **bedding layer**. An even layer of clean sand 25-40mm thick is important to provide a level surface and a cushion to lay the pavers. The sand layer should be screeded flat. The pavers are laid on this bed and they should be levelled with a vibrating compactor.

3. A solid **kerb or shoulder** surrounding the paved area is essential. Without this the pavers will drift outwards and will no longer provide a load-bearing surface.

4. Pavers are laid approximately 3mm apart. Fine sand is brushed into the **joints** between the pavers before compacting. This causes the pavers to lock up and provide a stiff bearing layer. Cement should not be used.

5. **Laying pattern**. There are numerous alternatives. The most popular are Stretcher and Herringbone bond. The latter is the most effective because it provides the best interlocking action and has no "direction". The paver shape has to be twice as long as it is wide to fit this pattern.

6. **Interlocking pavers** are those that have angular edge faces that allow geometric interlock of adjacent blocks. These provide the best load-carrying capacity.



## Do's & Don't's

- Ensure good edge support
- Don't use cement between joints.
- Plastic sheeting is not recommended under the pavers – it traps moisture and interferes with the integrity of the subbase layers
- It is important to drain water off the surface – moisture reduces the effectiveness of the subbase.