

Installation for a Dry-Laid Flagstone Patio or Walkway

Tools:

Round point shovel	Garden spade	Metal rake
level	Tape measure	Rubber mallet
Broom	Hose with spray nozzle	String
Work gloves	Tamper	Baby sledgehammer
Chisel	Line level	

Materials:

Flagstones	Fine gravel	Edging
Sand	Water	Board to level sand (one 2x4)



Patio above is a mortared application not dry-laid.

To calculate materials needed go to www.marshallstone.com and go to **Estimating Calculators**.

Planning the Flagstone Pathway

Below are two options for laying out a pathway:

- For a straight walk, lay out the perimeter of the planned pathway and place a wooden stake into the ground at each corner.
- For a curved pathway, use a pair of garden hoses to lay out the design. Adjust the bends and curves in the hoses for the look you want before staking out and digging the pathway.

(cont.)

Laying the Walkway

1. At each stake, measure and mark a point approximately 1/4" above ground. This will be the finished height of the path. Tie a string between the stakes at the 1/4" mark, using a line level to keep the string level.
2. To allow for water run-off, slope one end of your walkway away from the house about 1/4" higher. Raise the end of the string nearest the house to establish the correct slope ratio for the length of the pathway (1/4" to every foot of path).
3. Adjust the line level of the string on the opposite uphill or downhill stake to ensure that both sides of the path are parallel.
4. Place a rough layout with flagstones alongside the staked-out pathway.
5. Install the edging.

Preparing the Foundation

1. Dig up about 2 1/2" of the sod between the strings. If you choose to use the sod later, set it aside in a cool place and water.
2. Dig up the soil so you have a constant depth of 2 1/2" from the base of your foundation to the string. Tamp it flat.
3. Check again for the slope.
4. Spread about 1 1/2" of sand over the freshly dug area and distribute evenly.
5. To level the sand, use a 2x4 and smooth (screed) the surface with the edge. Tamp the sand over the entire foundation surface making sure to keep the necessary slope.

Laying the Flagstones

Although flagstones have rough, irregular surfaces, lay the pathway as evenly as possible to avoid trips and falls.

1. Place the flagstones on top of the compacted sand.
2. Adjust the height of each flagstone as necessary by adding or removing sand.
3. To secure the flagstones, lay a straight 2x4 across them and tap along the board with a rubber mallet.
4. After securing the flagstones, move the 2x4 across the surface of the flagstones to check for any uneven areas.
5. Gaps between the larger pieces of flagstones can be filled in with smaller, cut pieces.

(Cont.)

Cutting and Shaping Flagstones

Cutting may be required to fit the curve of the walkway (be sure to wear safety glasses):

1. Draw a cut line on the stone with a pencil.
2. Tap a chisel along the cut line with a baby sledgehammer, making a series of cuts.
3. Prop the flagstone so the cut line hangs over the edge of a piece of scrap 2x4 and position the chisel in the middle of the cut line.
4. Strike the chisel sharply with the sledgehammer, breaking the flagstone along the groove.
5. To shape the edges of a flagstone to fit into a gap, place the stone to be cut on top of the stones against which it will fit. Visualize the edges of the stones below and draw these shapes on the stone to be cut.
6. Use the full blade of the chisel to chip away the edges of the stone to just inside the cut line, allowing for a gap between the stones.

Finishing

1. Sprinkle a layer of sand over the entire pathway and sweep it into the gaps between the flagstones.
2. Dampen the pathway with a light misting from a garden hose. Repeat the above process until all gaps are filled.
3. The edges of the walkway can be finished with sod tucked in and around the flagstones or by adding mulch.

For more detailed instructions contact your Marshall Stone Representative.