

## **What is block paving and what is it used for?**

Increase the value of your home with a charming new driveway, or grab the attention of passers-by with a stylish slate brick paving entryway. **Brick paving** also sometimes called **Block paving** is normally a rectangle paver, there are lots of different sizes but they are always stronger than a patio slab as they are made for driveways. They are stronger so that they can withstand the weight of vehicles, all driveway brick paving's are made from concrete, but it is not to be confused with concrete paving slabs, which are not suitable for driveway use.

Block paving has become a very popular choice for patios due to its versatility with laying patterns and colours in addition to being low maintenance and very hard wearing. It is also much more affordable than you might think. If you are thinking of changing your driveway and upgrading it to brick paving's then there are many examples of brick paving on the internet so the first thing you should do is find what colour you like the most and then design the driveway so that it fits your needs. There are hundreds of designs that you can find, pick a few ideas and design for your front garden which best suits your needs, from traditional to modern contemporary and urban courtyard. There are dozens of designs with beautiful patios which will enhance any property.

### **Which block paving colours to use?**

Block paving for driveways can be selected according to shade; offering everything from moody charcoals to light sun-kissed tones. Block paving looks fantastic when paired with rustic settings, while Grey-Green and Cinder paving bricks complement modern spaces.

The best way is to draw out a few designs on paper. When you decide what you would like to have made, get a spray paint from your local builders merchant or DIY store and outline your design. Then measure the area that you want to cover with brick paving's if it is not the whole front garden. Some people like to have a driveway with the rest of the garden to be covered with grass and have flowers in a carry around the edge this is so that they can drive and park their car off the road and onto their front drive. Some people like to have the whole garden covered in brick paving so that they do not have to worry about any maintenance.

To get the measurements, multiply the length and width of the area you want to cover and find out what square meter you need the brick paving for. Then pick the colour you would like to have and go with. You can call a few local builders merchants and find out if they have the quantity of brick paving's that you need and what the cost is. It is also good to get a lead time form the merchant or supplier so that you know how long it will take the builders merchant to deliver the brick paving that you need. The next step is to find the right contractor for the job.

To find the right contractor is normally the hardest thing to do. Vetted Trades online will help you find the best reviewed and rated contractors for your work. It is highly recommended that you find three contractors to get a quote from and then pick the one that you would like to work with and are able to communicate with the most.

Good communication always help. It's no good to get a great deal and then not been able to talk to your contractor. What will happen is that you will get something that you have not asked for and did not want. It is better to pay a bit more to get the job done right.

Any contractor that has done the work should be following the process written below that the brick paving should be laid in. If they are not following the process then they are either saving a cost or they do not know what they are doing, in both cases you are the one that this will effect. It is your car that will be parked on the new drive, you do not want your new brick paving to have areas that crack or subside. This will then allow water to sit and this is not a good view of a new driveway.

### **PROCESS TO LAY BRICK PAVING**

There are a few notes to remember before you start the work. The first is that the top end of any drive way should be at least six inches or 150mm below DPC level. The area that is to be covered with brick paving should be dug down a foot below the FFL (Finished Floor Level).

- 1) Lay down a weed barrier, a single layer is sufficient but if you overlap it will give you double the protection. This will assure that nothing grows though it.
- 2) There should be a 150mm layer of hard core. This should be compressed down with a whacker plate.
- 3) 50mm of screed for the base layer.
- 4) Edging trim should be done first to create and enclose the area to be covered.
- 5) Brick paving to be laid according to the design that you have picked out.
- 6) Klim dried sand to be brushed over the newly laid brick pavers to fill in any and all gaps.
- 7) Use a Brick and patio sealer to complete the work.

After the work is done you will have a driveway that you can park your car on and enjoy the new look of your front garden. A beautifully paved driveway not only enhances a home's kerbside appeal, it also gives you the chance to show off your creative flair.