



# Laying Paving

*- Bedding*

## Laying Paving – Bedding

### **Bedding Layer**

Flagstones can be bedded directly into either a 40mm thick coarse grit sand bed or a 20-40mm thick cement bound bed. Most flagstones are laid onto a cement bound material. Never use building sand as bedding as it is too soft and can become fluid when waterlogged, consequently moving beneath the flags and causing settlement.

Coverage for bedding should be approximately 10-12m<sup>2</sup> per tonne at 50mm thick. This varies with moisture content. The bedding material should be spread across the area and compacted either by trampling or with a plate compactor prior to bed preparation.

### **Individual Bedding**

Individual bedding is a method of laying where each flag has a bed prepared for it individually. A bed is prepared, a flag laid then the next bed is prepared. This method is usually used with larger flags, natural stone flags or decorative flags as the thickness of the flags can be significantly different or misshaped.

Use a spade or large trowel to level out bedding material which should have the top 15-20mm loosened to allow the flags to be bedded down. This is achieved by rippling the bedding surface which will create small troughs and peaks. The bed should be 5-8mm high to allow for consolidation.

Use a taught string as a guide and use a piece of broken flag or a piece of broken flag or a piece of timber cut to the correct thickness to judge the level of bed adjacent to the line.

Make the bed cover 100mm or so further than the flag will cover as it is best to have a bed too large than too small, leaving an edge of flag unsupported.

### **Screed bedding**

Screed bedding is where the bed is prepared before the flags are placed. A larger area can be screeded and the flags placed one by one directly onto the bed. This method is only suitable for small flags less than 600x600mm. It is essential that the flags be of a constant thickness.

The bedding material is spread out over the area to be paved, compacted with a plate compactor and then screeded to 5-8mm high.

### **Spot bedding**

Spot bedding is a method using 5 dollops of mortar and is not recommended as it leaves voids beneath the flags making them more likely to fracture and solidified mortar spots settle differently and tend to rock, the voids between the mortar spots can also allow surface water to accumulate leading to instability.