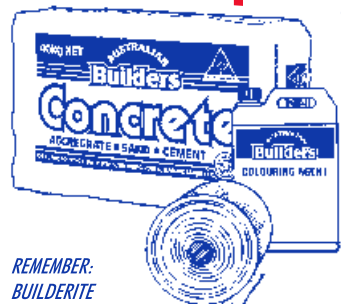


CONCRETE PATHWAYS



Concrete is a versatile building product that is ideally suited for the construction of pathways. Every home needs a path to some where, whether it be to the clothes line or back shed. However there's no need for it to be plain or boring. Use your imagination!
Hint: Add some decorative insert tiles along the way or a child's hand print, foot print. Brick insert pattern. The boring job of hanging out the washing over the years can become a trip down memory lane. The best part of all, it really is easy!
Hint: Take the time to plan your pathway, it will be worth it... trust me! **BUILDERITE!** **HAPPY BUILDING!**



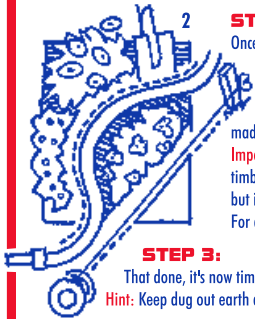
REMEMBER:
BUILDERITE
 THE FIRST TIME.

TIP 1:

Firstly, decide on where your pathway is going to be required. A direct path is obvious and practical. But... why not look beyond the obvious? Try a few curves, angles and diversions to break up the symmetry along the way? Not that there's anything wrong with straight lines and edges, they can create architecturally inspired results. All I'm saying is think about it!
Hint: It's all in the planning, get as much advice and information as you can, prior to starting the construction of your new concrete pathway, even if it is just leading to the garden shed. A poorly constructed concrete pathway will de-value your property. **Builderite** the first time and enjoy the rest of your time. See diagram 1.

STEP 1:

Begin by sketching out your paths layout to scale on some graph paper. You'll need to measure your yard, distances between house and shed, trees, etc. etc.
Hint: When drawing things to scale use an easy to remember formula. for example. 1 metre = 1 or 2 blocks on your graph paper. It's always worked for me. Or take a hands on visual approach. Walk the route you want your path to take and mark it out along the way.



STEP 2:

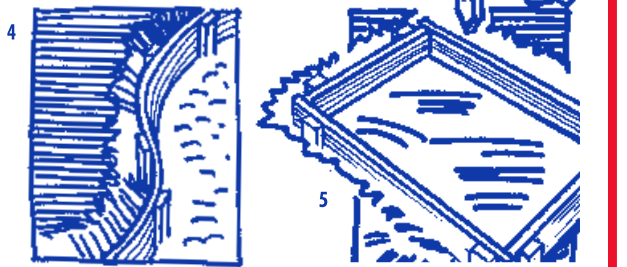
Once you've decided on the path layout, you're ready to peg out the path area.
Hint: Use a string line for straight lines and your garden hose for curves. See diagram 2. Step back and take note of it's appearance. Ensure you are happy with it's layout and function. For example have you made it wide enough, have you over done the curves, etc. etc.
Important: Allow enough space on either side of the pathway to accommodate timber framing & bracing pegs. 50mm each side should be sufficient, but is dependant on the timber dimensions you are utilizing. For an example: An 800mm wide pathway should be cut out to 900mm wide.

STEP 3:

That done, it's now time to dig. Your path trench will need to be dug out to a depth of 120 mm.
Hint: Keep dug out earth away from path area, to facilitate easier concrete pouring and work conditions.

STEP 4:

Time to erect your timber framework to support your concrete during the drying process. Use a smooth surfaced timber that doesn't warp when wet. Ask your hardware supplier for a suitable timber. To make curves, use some flexible thin metal, plastic or masonite strips bent round to the preferred shape. See diagram 4.
Important: Make certain your finished form work slopes gently to one side, to allow for water run off. Away from the direction of your house or shed. Use your spirit level to achieve the desired result. Brace the outer walls of the frame by nailing (at roughly 1 metre intervals) some solid wooden pegs into it, ensuring it remains a solid construction during the concrete pour. See diagram 5. **Hint:** Not essential, but for ease of removing your form after concrete is fully cured, coat the inside of your new framework with some old sump oil.



CONCRETE PATHWAYS



There's nothing more rewarding than building-it-yourself. Concrete Paving is easy to do... no problem! Remember the golden rule of B.I.Y. "Never bite off more than you can chew". Work at your own pace, not the clock. At the end of the day you should be satisfied with what you have accomplished.
Hint: Plan ahead and work in segments at a time. This gives you time for a break between segments. No rush... No Fuss!
HAPPY BUILDING!

STEP 5:

Next, level & compact the bottom of your formed trench. Add a 20 mm layer of crushed rock. Compact this down firmly with a heavy object or a vibrating plate to create a solid base on which to lay concrete. See diagram 6.

STEP 6:

About thirty minutes or so before you mix the concrete, soak the whole area you've prepared with water, as the dry soil and building materials will absorb a lot of water from the wet concrete, which in turn will significantly reduce it's long term strength.

TIP-BIT:

If you like working on your own, only work in workable segments at a time. For example: 1 metre x 1 metre segments. So before you mix your concrete, seal off the ends of the segment you are preparing, with appropriate sized timber and securing pegs. Segment by segment you will finish your concrete pathway. To start the next segment, remove end boards and start again.

STEP 7:

We're getting there now... It's time to mix up a batch of concrete. Prepare your Australian Builders Concrete according to user and safety directions on packaging. Avoid a sloppy mix. **Hint:** To give your path some added character, add some Australian Builders Colouring Agent or Oxide, they come in a large range of natural colours. Start the concrete pour at one end of the framework. Using your shovel, spread out the mix and tamp down the concrete. Slightly overfill your framework.

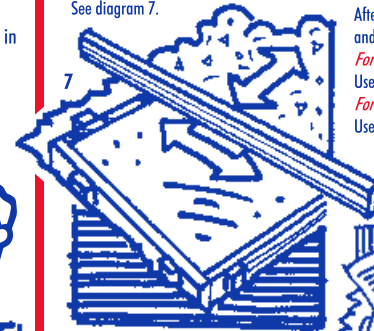
Important: When working with concrete it is essential to incorporate " control points ". These control joints help to drain surface water but more importantly, control expansion and contraction of the concrete, which in turn reduces the risk of cracking. Using Australian Builders expansion joint filler, control points should be spaced out at length intervals of about 1 1/2 times the width of the path.

STEP 8:

Start to finish off the path by levelling it's surface with the aid of a long straight-edged piece of timber (or screed) board. Do this by firstly using a sawing action, followed by a chopping action, to further compact the mix. See diagram 7.

STEP 9:

After 30 to 45 minutes, when the initial surface water has disappeared and it's sufficiently firm, you can apply the finished surface you desire.
For a textured or rough style finish:
 Use a stiff brush or garden broom, lightly swept across it's surface
For a smooth or even style finish:
 Use a wooden float, pressed down and 'scrubbed' in a circular motion.
For a glossy or polished style finish:
 Use a steel float, tilted at a slight angle to the surface and work towards you in a sweeping semi circular action.



Hint: Ensure you have allowed for a margin of fall on your concrete surface to allow for water to drain away. Your concrete pathway should be slightly higher than the ground that surrounds it. See diagram 8.

Important: For added strength, steel mesh reinforcement, should be used. In a standard 100mm thick slab, install steel mesh at approx 50mm depth.

