

FREE-FORM PAVING



It's easy to create unique informal or formal walkways using free-form paving. Design your own shaped paving stones to blend seamlessly into your garden. See diagram 4.

HINT: Take the time to plan your pathway. Builderite the first time. Check out those great home maker mags and new home displays, they'll give you the inspiration you need. For an authentic rock path feel don't overwork the surface, add some texture with the help of a stiff bristled broom. Add a few defects to the surface. See diagram 8. The extra effort will be well worth it. **HAPPY BUILDING!**



REMEMBER:
BUILDERITE
THE FIRST TIME.

STEP 1:

Identify the type of pavement you prefer. Informal versus formal. See diagram 1 & 2. Walk your planned route several times to ensure you are satisfied it works for you and best compliments your home and garden.

HINT: If you have areas where lawn has trouble growing, try to work the path design through these areas. However don't let this be the determining factor in your final layout. That may require a horticultural solution.

STEP 2:

Cut out of cardboard a range of "natural" looking stone pavement shapes of various sizes. (use an old corrugated packing box.) Don't over complicate the shapes, keep it simple!

HINT: As an example, the path design below was created with only 1 shape of various sizes, rotated and turned... looks great!



STEP 3:

Layout your stone templates in place in your garden.

HINT: Use a brick or weighted object to hold templates in position. It can get windy outdoors. Once satisfied with your layout, mark the soil area around each shape edge with a spade. See diagram 3. Remove template and dig a vertical straight edged hole to a depth of no less than 100mm. See diagram 5.

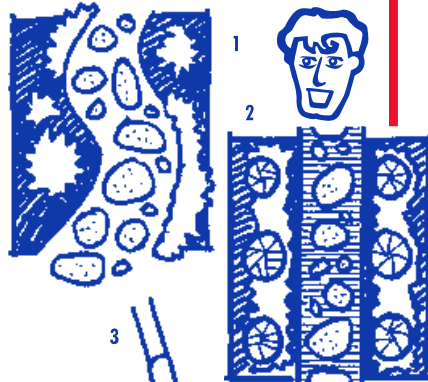
STEP 4:

Now you can mix your Australian Builders Concrete according to user and safety instructions on packaging. For a coloured finish add some Australian Builders Colouring Agent... you can achieve some wonderful natural looking rock paving this way.

HINT: Don't mix too much concrete in the one batch. Only prepare enough to fill a few holes at a time. Take your time build your pathway in stages. Shovel wet concrete mix into holes and compact firmly. Level off the entire surface with a wooden trowel. Slightly over-fill and blend edges to be level to ground.

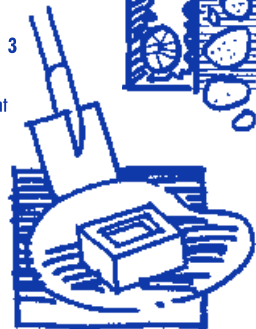
STEP 5:

As with all concrete work, it is best to cover your finished job with a damp cloth, plastic or old newspapers. This will allow your concrete to cure properly and give you strong concrete paving stones. Allow 7 days before subjecting your path to foot traffic. Builderite the first time and enjoy the rest of your time.

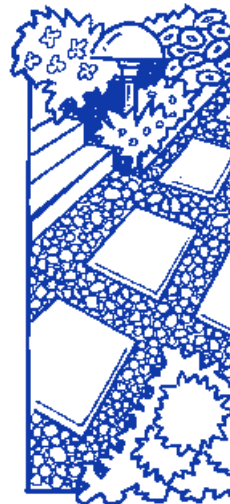


1

2



PAVING SLABS



There's nothing more rewarding than building-it-yourself. Paving slabs are easy to make and lay... 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: Make a batch of slabs prior to designing your layout. Position these slabs on top of the surface area you intend to pave. Keep arranging until you are happy. It's easy! **HAPPY BUILDING!**



STEP 1:

Start by building your slab framing box template. Build your box to a suitable size. Note: Don't make it bigger than you can handle safely on your own. Use a smooth finished, timber that doesn't warp when wet. Ask your hardware supplier for a suitable timber. Your finished block should be a minimum of 100mm thick. Fasten hinges to 2 corners of the box and a catch locking device. See diagram 1. This will make it easy to remove the slab from the box when finished.

HINT: To stop concrete from sticking to mould, coat inside of finished mould with a layer of light motor oil or linseed oil, prior to each fill.

STEP 2:

Place your box on a flat surface lined with plastic, now you're ready to mix your Australian Builders Concrete according to user and safety instructions on packaging.

HINT: If you want your finished job to be a little different, why not use a heavily grained timber backing with no plastic liner think about other textures that could work for you. Experimentation is part of the home & garden beautification experience... enjoy being creative.

If natural concrete colour is not to your liking add some Australian Builders Colouring Agent. Be creative, experiment with blending colours, you will be rewarded for the effort.

STEP 3:

Shovel wet concrete mix into mould. Slightly over-fill. Compact firmly into box and level off the entire surface with a flat, smooth, sturdy, straight timber edge. Make sure the timber is wider than the mould to enable the sawing action required to work excess concrete from back to front.

Smooth finish the concrete surface with a wet timber float trowel or for a non slip surface use a soft bristled hand broom.

STEP 4:

Allow the concrete to set "firm", then carefully remove the box by unlocking the latch. Allow concrete to fully set "hard".

STEP 5:

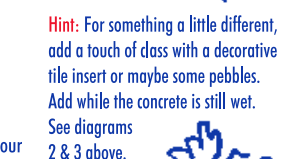
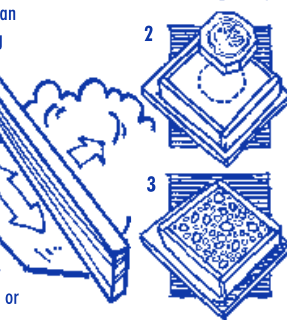
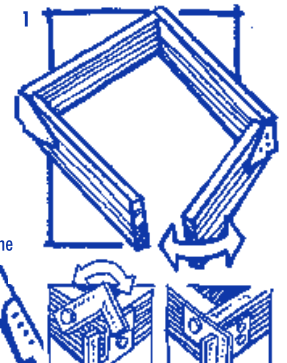
Now you can dig a suitable level trench, to 120mm in depth to your desired width & length. Width should be 100mm wider than your finished slab size, to enable easy positioning of slab. Add a level 20mm layer of paving sand in trench.

HINT: Use a string line and spirit level to ensure straight and level finished path way.

STEP 6:

Now for the fun part... you can start laying your paving slabs. Once finished, fill gaps around the slabs with top soil with grass seed, coloured gravel or pebbles, dry sand/cement mix, coloured mortar mix. just to name a few. Finally for a professional result hire a paving compacter vibrator to bed in your slabs.

HINT: You can also do this job with a rubber mallet.



HINT: For something a little different, add a touch of class with a decorative tile insert or maybe some pebbles. Add while the concrete is still wet. See diagrams 2 & 3 above.