



Hardscaping for Function & Beauty

ALL ABOUT PAVERS

*TIPS ON HOW TO CHOOSE AND MAINTAIN
RESIDENTIAL INSTALLATIONS*



 **Roedell's** LANDSCAPING
& SUPPLIES

INTRODUCTION

There are a large variety of uses for pavers around your home. You can create or renew a patio, carve beautiful walkways or upgrade to a paver driveway. Pavers can also be used to create an area for a fire outdoors or to add contrast to planting areas. Pavers can also be used as a simple, or a very complex, aesthetic focal point to your outdoor space.

Many different types of paver material can be used in your intended installation. Most paver installations will be a significant investment into your home, and it is important to arm yourself with the knowledge pertinent to your intended use.

Depending on the complexity and location of your paver installation, you will want to weigh the options and expense of consulting and/or hiring a hardscape professional to assist you in attaining your desired results. Paver installation can be time consuming for one or two people and is hard work.

We recommend you at least consult a professional to help with your design before moving forward with a DIY installation. Professionals usually have design software that can take into account the elevations and topography of your home site. This can be important when leveling and preparing for paver installation.

The first decision to be made in regard to your paver installation is to determine what purpose you want to serve in your outdoor space:

- ➔ Patio
- ➔ Walkway
- ➔ Driveway
- ➔ Other options

It is important to know that certain paving material may be better suited to your needs than others. **The second decision will be what type of paving material to use.**

In some installations, you will have a variety of choices of pavers you can choose from for your intended installation. You can also get creative and customize your design to suit your own tastes and complement your home's décor.

We hope to help guide you with this download as you begin your journey into creating a beautiful paver installation for your home site.





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First: Why Pavers?

There are numerous reasons why pavers are a smart choice for your home. Some of the most convincing are the following:

1. **Pavers will increase your property value.** One of the first things that will increase your property's value is your landscaping, and this includes your areas that are hardscaped with pavers. Pavers can add value because they will enhance the beauty and function of your home by adding outdoor living spaces.
2. While they increase what your home is worth in actual sale price, pavers **also add curb appeal.** They increase the enjoyment you have for your home and appeal to potential buyers, as well as to your friends and neighbors.
3. **Pavers will improve drainage around your property.** Large, flat areas tend to hold water and/or can create runoff that can cause erosion and other issues. Pavers help to alleviate these issues and create a more functional yard area. By improving drainage, pavers also reduce the number of mosquitoes around your property here in Central Florida during the warmer weather.
4. **Safety** – Along with preventing water issues that can create slip hazards, pavers can also add safety to the outdoor areas of your home by creating easy-to-manuever walkways. They can also sometimes lighten up areas affected by shadows or limited light. While there are many other reasons to consider installing pavers around your home, but we believe this to be at the top of the list.



The Many Uses of Pavers Around Your Home

With some creativity, you'll find an endless number of uses for pavers around your home. This is particularly true when it comes to creating a special focal point or a simple, elegant design element in your spaces. Think along these lines: You could potentially create anything from a labyrinth of stone to a life size chess board.

For our purposes, we will be covering some of the more functional—yet still beautiful—uses of pavers around your home. **These include:**

Patio and Pool Decks – Pavers can create *wonderful* patios and pool decks. There are so many options when it comes to patios that it is possible to get just the right color, texture and design that you want to ensure the creation of the front- or backyard oasis that you dream of. We will go over some of those options in the next section. There are certain types of pavers that are more slip-resistant than others, and these can give you a more elegant and natural look to your patio or pool deck than a poured patio or coated pool deck.

Walkways and Steps - Pavers can be placed strategically around your home to produce safe walkways and to direct traffic flows to the areas of your yard that you use most. Steps can also be added to your design. Steps can add safety when your yard may be sloped due to the topography of your home site or when tiered landscaping is installed to add depth.

Outdoor Seating Areas and Fireplace/Fire Pit Areas - In addition to patio areas or pool decks that are typically installed right outside your front or back doors, you may want to develop areas further into your yard space and away from your home. These areas can be used to provide intimate garden space for solitude or to create a space for more private conversations with guests. You can also design an outdoor fireplace or fire pit that will tempt you and your guests to come gather around a fire in cooler weather.

Driveways – Pavers are stronger, install faster and provide more traction when wet than a traditional poured concrete driveway. They are also easier to repair and maintain as well. Pavers do not require curing time, which means you can begin to use your driveway as soon as the installation is complete. Because there is little need for large equipment when installing pavers, a DIY paver driveway is a great option, given the right design and proper knowledge. We do, however, recommend you consult a hardscaping professional for either some assistance or for simple tips and advice before tackling this big DIY project.



COMPOSITE MATERIALS VS. NATURAL MATERIALS

Different Types of Paver Materials

Choosing your paver material is a big decision. While it is most important to pick the type of material that will best suit your intended purpose, the appearance of the finished product is a close second.

Paving material must complement your home and other hardscaping around it or your outdoor areas will look choppy. Your hardscaping should flow and elevate the curb appeal of your home.

While there are many, many varieties of paving materials to choose from, you can get a good idea of what some materials look like by searching online. Houzz has become a great resource for visual examples of home improvement projects. Their, [Guide to Popular Landscape Paving Materials](#), will give you some good examples. We also recommend that you go to your local landscape professional and see what types of paver materials they carry.

Materials available to you can vary based on a variety of factors. Since you will likely want a local delivery, it is smart to find out what is available locally before moving forward with your favorite choices. And remember that local suppliers will likely provide you with free samples to take home and consider.

There are two basic types of pavers:

1. **Composite Materials:** These materials are processed and molded into specific shapes and typically come in specific sizes. Composite pavers are quite durable, offer a bit more flexibility with design work, and are usually easier to install than natural stone.
2. **Natural Material or Quarried Stone:** These materials are dug or mined from the ground in natural deposits and then shaped by splitting or cutting, resulting in many odd shapes and sizes. These types of pavers are both more expensive and harder to install. As well, availability may vary; however, natural materials are usually seen as a higher-end product, and they elevate the feeling of refinement to your outdoor spaces and garden areas.



PAVERS



CONCRETE (stamped)



BRICK

Remember to choose your material based first on its intended use and secondly for its color, texture, pattern, etc.

Some types of composite material pavers and their properties are:

1. **Concrete Pavers:** These are molded pavers that come in many different colors, sizes and pattern options, allowing for the customizing your space. They are durable and fairly inexpensive but can seem a little less refined than a brick or natural stone.
2. **Poured Concrete:** When installed correctly, poured concrete can be one of the toughest and most permanent surfaces. It is also extremely flexible, with a limitless ability to form and shape the material. Concrete comes in color options and is also tintable.
3. **Brick** is considered the blueblood of paving materials, and they have become both popular and expensive. Brick can raise the aesthetic bar, whether placed around a small garden or surrounding a large home. Brick is extremely durable, and its small size makes it easier to handle and to install. Brick also harmonizes well with plants and other paver materials. Be aware that brick varies in strength, so be sure to ask your supplier or landscape professional if your selection will stand up to your needs.

Some types of natural material or quarried stone pavers and their properties:

1. **Sandstone:** Sandstone is available in many colors and is readily available in most areas. It is extremely durable, easier to cut and design with, and easier to install than some of the other natural stone options. Sandstone colors tend to have striations and occasional bands of contrasting colors, which is important to keep in mind when designing and selecting.
2. **Granite:** Likely the most durable of the natural stone options, granite creates an elegant look in areas where it is installed and also offers the most color choice of all paving materials. Granite is harder to cut and work with during installation, and comes with the price to match. It is sometimes used as an accent to a more affordable paver material in larger areas.



SANDSTONE



GRANITE



SLATE



GRAVEL

3. **Slate or Flagstone:** With a unique texture and subtle color options, slate/flagstone is easy to shape into flat pieces but can also flake or chip, making it less durable than some other options. If damages occur due to weather changes, the damaged areas may become uneven, causing puddling or trip hazards. This material is best used in the sheltered areas of your outdoor space or in drier climates.

4. **Gravel:** Gravel makes a great, economical option for areas of informal use, but can shift underfoot. Gravel also allows for more weeds to grow than what you'll find with other stones. For areas of heavy traffic, be sure to use an angular gravel over a rounded one, as it will interlock as it settles and establish a firmer surface. You can speed up this process by tamping during installation.

FREE E-BOOK
**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
 BEFORE
 HIRING A LANDSCAPER!**



Maintaining Your New Paver Installation

Once you have chosen your paver material and conquered your installation, whether you tackled it as a DIY project or hired a landscape or hardscape professional, the job isn't done. Although paver materials are pretty durable, it is important to make sure you maintain them in order to keep them fresh looking and safe for your family and guests. Paver areas that are neglected can detract from your home's curb appeal and make your outdoor spaces look unkempt and messy.

- Sweep or use a leaf blower regularly to keep the areas free of dirt and debris. This will also keep the surface clean and avoid scratching as well as eliminate risks of slipping or tripping over materials that have deposited on the surface.
- Wash with a water hose or pressure washer on low pressure to remove any debris, such as mildew. You can use a mild soap or a vinegar and water mixture to remove any stains on concrete stones. When pressure washing, always use at an angle as to avoid weakening stones.
- Weed prevention is important to maintain the clean, crisp look of your paver area. You should use a weed killer a few times a year in the joints to prevent battling overgrowth. You can also use a material underlayment when installing to aid in weed prevention.
- Inspect your pavers a few times a year for any cracks, breaks, uneven areas and other repair needs. Be sure to quickly replace any sections that may pose a hazard. Addressing quickly will also keep the area level and durable much longer.
- Joint sand will need to be maintained and reapplied after any heavy sweeping pressure, washing, or when repairing a section. This is a vital step in keeping your pavers in place and safe to enjoy.
- Polish natural stone pavers to smooth the surface texture in order to maintain brilliance and safety, as natural stone can damage over time as well.
- Seal composite or natural pavers to help preserve, maintain and avoid weeds.



Seasonal Tips For Easier Maintenance

Here in Florida, we have mild winters but very rainy summers, so it is imperative to keep your pavers maintained. Here are some seasonal tips to keep in mind.

The best time for paver maintenance here in Central Florida is at the end of winter (or beginning of spring) and at the end of summer. After winter is over and it is warm enough to wander outside, clear off old debris from your surfaces. Then clean and prepare your pavers for spring and summer, when the growth of weeds is at its height.

The end of summer is another great time to clean and repair any areas that may have suffered damage during the summer season. It will also prepare you for a fairly maintenance-free fall and winter season, when temperatures here drop enough to enjoy much longer periods of outdoor entertainment and enjoyment.

Be sure to walk your outdoor spaces and inspect your paver areas at least twice a month. Outdoor areas, especially those that are not sheltered, are vulnerable to damage from falling debris, weed growth, possible puddling and uneven surfaces as they are exposed to the elements. Simple inspections and quick repairs will go a long way in assuring long life to your pavers.



Conclusion

Pavers add functionality and beauty to your outdoor spaces, increasing your enjoyment. You can extend your living space by creating a multitude of outdoor areas to enjoy, including patios, fire pit areas and gardens. You can also create more elegant driveways and border landscape areas that will make your home's curb appeal skyrocket.

Taking the time to research materials, designs, possibilities and proper applications, you will be able to select the perfect pavers for your areas – ones you can maintain easily and enjoy for many years. We hope this guide will assist you in that process.

Additional Resources Available Online include:

Roedell's' - [LANDSCAPING ASSESSMENT & PLANNING CHECKLIST](#)

Roedell's' - [WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE HIRING A LANDSCAPER](#)

Roedell's' - [ROCK AND MULCH CALCULATOR](#)

Roedell's' - [FLORIDA SOD: SELECTION & MAINTENANCE GUIDE](#)

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