



PLASPAVE LAYING GUIDE

including helpful instructions for DIY Laying, Laying Patterns and how to use Plaskerb

IMPORTANT READING FOR PAVING CONTRACTORS and DOMESTIC CUSTOMERS



FITNESS FOR PURPOSE

All Plaspave products are intended for residential /domestic use either as footpaths, patios or driveway / parking areas for cars and light vans. The manufacturer cannot be responsible for the loss of driveway integrity or paver damage resulting from overrun by trade vehicles, large vans, trucks, skips and similar heavy traffic. All Plaspave Concrete Block Paving products are manufactured by companies in the Plasmor Group under Quality Assurance BS EN ISO 9001:2000. Plasmor expects the paving contractors and householder to inspect packs of product prior to laying and in the unlikely event that any pack of product reaches you in an unsatisfactory condition, the Merchant Retailer should be notified immediately.

It is important to identify any defect that is visually apparent prior to laying as the manufacturer cannot be responsible for costs of uplifting and relaying.

All products supplied by Plasmor Limited are subject to standard Plasmor Conditions of Sale which outline the extent of our Manufacturer's liability.

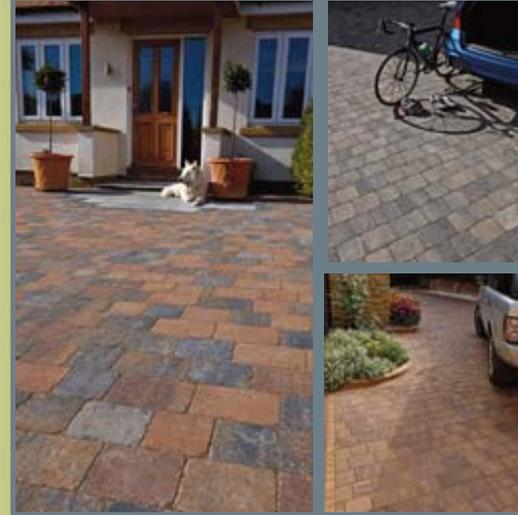
For further information contact one of the Plasmor's regional telephone numbers:

EASTERN ENGLAND: **01977 673221**
WESTERN ENGLAND: **0151 423 1161**

CHOOSING A COLOUR

The colours shown in any of our brochures and guides are as accurate as reprographic and four colour printing processes allow. **WHEN FINALLY DECIDING ON COLOURS, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT CUSTOMERS SEE SAMPLES.** One of the positive benefits of Plaspave is that colours will appear to change very slightly in different levels of light. You will notice a difference between bright sunlight, summer and winter light, wet and dry. It should also be noted that while every effort is made to ensure the consistency of product colour and texture across batches and between factories some slight variation is possible. Please ensure you order all the packs you require so that they can be supplied from the same batch. Paving contractors should follow best laying practice - mixing product on the site from a minimum of three packs.

Plaspave's **10 YEAR PRODUCT GUARANTEE** is your **PEACE OF MIND** - full details available on request or visit www.plaspave.co.uk for further information



LAYING ADVICE

Please ensure you order all the packs you require so that they can be supplied from the same batch. Paving contractors should follow best laying practice - mixing product on the site from a minimum of three packs. Products such as Sorrento, Amalfi and Ginestro are rumbled during manufacturing and this process may leave a dusty residue on the surface of some pavers. This will weather in and be removed over time by rainfall - alternatively it could be removed more quickly by the application of a patio cleaner. This unavoidable residue, although it may be considered unsightly, will in no way affect the performance of the paving. Despite being randomly packaged in the pack, it may not be immediately obvious that Sorrento, Amalfi and Ginestro have a top and bottom - it is important to lay all blocks top upwards! The top face has deeper colours and superior texture. The spacer nibs are designed to work correctly only when all product is laid "top upwards". Please take a moment to familiarise yourself with the product and observe the positioning of the vertical spacer nibs.

SORRENTO, AMALFI & GINESTRO TO IDENTIFY THE TOP

With a right hand grip, the forward facing right hand side of the block should have the spacer-nib 25mm from the front edge. If the spacer nib is 50mm from the front edge then the block is upside down. It will soon become obvious that the visual appeal of the project is improved when all blocks are correctly laid top upwards.



SORRENTO - When laying Palermo you need to protect the wacker plate with a rubber or neoprene mat to protect the riven surface of the paving. A generous covering of jointing sand will also help to protect the surface.

EFFLORESCENCE AND DIFFERENTIAL DRYING

Plaspave product ingredient mixes combined with modern, sophisticated curing technology contribute to reduce the incidence of EFFLORESCENCE. However, all concrete products have a tendency to be subject to efflorescence staining in their early life. This is a naturally occurring phenomenon which should not be regarded as cause for concern. Efflorescence is not detrimental to the performance of the pavers and is usually a temporary condition which tends to disappear with weathering over a period of time.

On occasions, darker patches may be visible on the surface of the paving blocks. This is due to DIFFERENTIAL DRYING and it will disappear over time as the blocks dry out. Differential drying occurs as a result of the paving blocks being cured at slightly different rates; they may subsequently dry out at different rates. This is no way detrimental to the strength, durability or performance of the product. Plasmor cannot be responsible for this temporary effect.

PLASPAVE DIY LAYING GUIDE

Before you start . . . The construction sequence needs to be carried out in a logical order. Speedy efficient laying requires teamwork and good site organisation.

BASIC STEPS

Foundations must be firm and of a hardcore base (ideally washed crushed stone or medium grade concreting sand) of at least 100mm thick or 150mm for an unstable soil such as thick clay.

When laying a patio or path it is not necessary to prepare a sub-base, providing the underlying ground is firm. The area should be dug out to about 100mm (to allow for the blocks and the sand bedding layer.) This should then be compacted using a garden roller. A 50mm sand bedding layer should be prepared as for a driveway (although the sand can be compacted using a garden roller rather than a plate vibrator). The required digging depth must allow for the hardcore base.

The laying course material may be spread in one layer and screeded to the appropriate level, making due allowance for the reduction in thickness achieved during compaction.

Any hard surfaced areas such as drives or patios will be impervious and should incorporate a 1 in 40 fall or slope away from buildings to allow drainage of rainwater. To set this 'fall' use a spirit level on pegs 2 metres apart, placing a 50mm block of wood on the second peg beneath the straight edge.

Tap this peg down until you get a level reading. To avoid breaching or damaging the damp proof course of a house, a paved area must finish at least 150mm (6in) below this line. Also, where necessary drainage channels should be installed.

BEDDING IN

Firm edgings are essential to keep the blocks from sideways movement. Edgings set in concrete or a concrete haunching are ideal. All pavers are laid by hand with joint widths of approximately 2-5mm in a specified pattern. Full pavers should be laid first from an existing laying face or edge restraint and carried on to complete the days work area. Leave spaces around obstructions i.e. manhole covers and put cut blocks in later. Blocks should be cut using a mechanical or hydraulic block-splitter. Use a kneeling board and lay planks to carry barrows, to avoid shifting or tilting blocks which have been laid but not bedded in.

COMPRESSING

When the surface is complete, the area should be compressed twice or three times by an appropriate vibrator, ensuring that vibration does not occur within 1 metre of any un restrained edge. In the case of patios or paths bedding can be completed by a club hammer or mallet using an off-cut of wood. This action will cause the sand from below to penetrate the block joints.

FINISHING

Clean dry sand or crushed rock fines should be brushed over the surface and into the joints. The area should then be recompressed. This filling and final compaction helps make the surface impermeable and causes better 'interlocking' of the blocks. The area is then ready for trafficking. It may be necessary to top up the joints after initial trafficking.



The three layers of a concrete driveway and patio are:-



Laying Patterns

The versatility of the Plaspave range will give you a wealth of pattern options for your patio or driveway. Here are just a few examples of traditional laying patterns but don't forget that with borders, edgings and inset details, you can create exciting and unique designs.

Stretcher Bond - a classic look that is ideal for driveways, patios and terraces.

Herringbone - recommended for drives and other large hard-standing areas.

Basketweave - easy to lay and something different to standard designs.

PLASPAVE PLASKERB & ACCESSORIES LAYING GUIDE



Drainage Channels

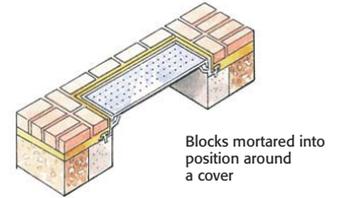
Channels can be constructed using rectangular paving blocks or proprietary drainage channels and Plaskerb Channel blocks are specifically designed to help clear standing water and drainage in most domestic applications. Where the block paving abuts the channel, the paving should be 6mm above the edge of the channel to allow for any future settlement.

Falls To help drainage, the minimum recommended cross falls should be 2.5% and longitudinal falls should be 1%.

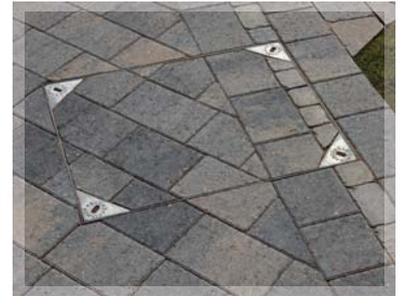
Rain Gardens and Soakaways

When building a rain garden as part of hard landscaping in front gardens, channel blocks can be used to help collect and direct any excess rainwater towards the rain garden or soakaway.

For more information see page 3

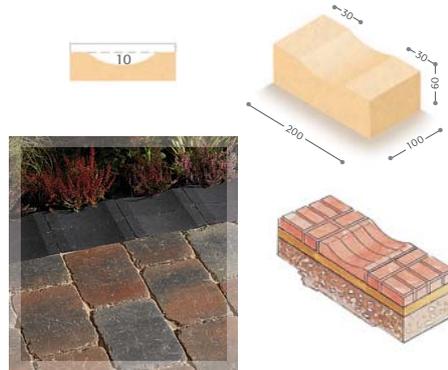


Blocks mortared into position around a cover



You should discuss the following areas of detail with your paving contractor and these need to be agreed, planned into the design and included in the estimate:-

- KERBS AND OTHER FORMS OF EDGE RESTRAINT
- DRAINAGE CHANNELS
- MANHOLES
- STEPS AND ENTRANCES



Manholes

Plaspave laid in a stretcher or soldier course can be used to make a feature of unsightly ironwork such as manholes. Where the manhole has straight sides, blocks can be laid in a stretcher course and butted up against the unit. Alternatively, a recessed manhole cover can be incorporated into the laying pattern as shown here

Edge Restraints

Edge restraints should be provided along the perimeter of all paved areas, to support traffic loads and to prevent the escape of the laying course materials from beneath the paved surface. They contain the lateral movement to prevent the rotation of the blocks under load and should be sufficiently robust to withstand damage from accidental overrun by vehicles.



edging with Plaskerb



edging with Weathered Kerb



edging with Como



edging with Monopoli



edging with double block string course



edging with block soldier course