

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT PAVER



Concrete Pavers • Stone Pavers • Tiles • Garden Walls & Edging
Retaining Walls • Concrete Sleepers • Concrete Blocks • Wall Cladding

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT PAVER



In today's modern lifestyle, many of us treat our outdoor areas as an extension of the indoor living space, so when planning a renovation project to our outdoor rooms we need to consider more than what colour the roof or gutters are to match, although that is often a good starting point.

Just like your carpet, kitchen backsplash or interior paint colour scheme, you need to carefully consider your outdoor paver and tile choice. Below are a few considerations for when deliberating on such decisions:

- The period of the house (eg. old QLD'er or modern rendered home)
- Your current decorating style (eg. country cottage or ultra-modern)
- Gutter, fascia and roof colour (eg. colorbond roof colours)
- House material and colour (eg. clay brick, rendered or weatherboard)
- Size of the space, terrain and soil type (eg. clay soil or highly reactive soil)
- Amount of natural light available (eg. covered area or

exposed to natural bright daylight)

- Other horizontal surfaces that the area will meet (eg. turf, garden beds, retaining wall products, other paved areas or your internal flooring choice)
- Internal colour scheme of flooring (eg. white porcelain tiles)
- Planned use for the space (eg. BBQ area)
- Weather conditions (locality of the home)
- Current colour trends (check out designer magazines and television shows)
- Future expansion plans (will you be adding on to this later, or changing its use in a future extension)

Have you chosen a style or theme for your home?

Choosing the type and style of your paver can be made easier if you have decided on a type of 'theme' or aesthetic for your home. For example -

- A modern, sleek style of home may want a large format paver
- Coastal or Hamptons will suit more lighter colour pavers
- Industrial style would suit greys and charcoal pavers
- Traditional homes may benefit from the clay range of pavers

Period of the house

This is important, as you may want to keep a consistent look for your home.

Cottage style homes traditionally suit our Bluestone range of pavers and tiles or even our Marble or Travertine pavers.

If your home is a Traditional red brick, then our clay brick pavers in a herringbone pattern may match the period of the home.

I have kids and/or pets

Your lifestyle is just as important as your aesthetics. Having kids and pets may mean that a scratch resistant paver is required and something that is very durable and hardwearing. Each paver should list its features and benefits so be sure to read over these, so you understand what resilience your paver has.

They need to suit my lifestyle as I love to entertain

Your outdoor space is an extension of your home and a big part of entertaining your guests. Barbeques, food and drinks all lead to potential spills so a stain resistant paver might be of importance to you. If your guests tend to wear heels or shoes that could scratch your pavers,

then consider a scratch resistant paver. Whatever your lifestyle, there is a paver choice to suit your needs.

Our large format Stoneware pavers are designed to help keep your space clean.

Need added strength and durability

Sometimes, strength and durability are key to a paving project, especially driveways, areas with vehicle access and very high traffic areas.

Your paver needs to withstand these additional pressures, such as weight bearing loads and the twisting and turning of tyres. A 50mm or 60mm paver would be a recommended thickness, along with pavers that have strength and durability as a feature of the product.

You can also add to the durability of your pavers with your paving pattern as an interlocking paving pattern helps to further strength them.

Aesthetics are important to me

If the aesthetics of your paver is a priority, then a premium range of paver will suit your needs. A premium paver not only look impressive and stylish, but they are also a high quality, durable paver that generally have a lot of features and benefits to them.



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I need to match / complement my existing colours

These days, paving colours are very extensive! No matter what your project, there will be a paver that will match your existing colours.

If you are starting with a blank canvas, then you may want to select a paver that matches with our products, such as garden walls, retaining walls and steps.

You can also go a step further and get a 30mm outdoor paver that has a matching 12mm indoor tile so you can use the one product both inside and outside your home for a completely matching and seamless look.

Budget

Having a clear budget for your paving project will also help you determine which pavers to choose. If you are getting your paver installed by a tradie, your paver choice can also affect your installation costs due to the number of cuts, weight of the pavers and ease of use.

Paving quotes are generally quoted per square metre (m²) which makes it easier to work out your costs for your pavers.

But how do you accurately calculate how many pavers you will need? The easiest way to do this is by measuring the space you plan to pave. Multiply the

length and width of your area to get the total square metre (m²). Once you have figured the entire area and how many pavers you'll need, we recommend adding an extra 5% to the number. These additional pavers will account for cuts and breakages that may happen.

About colour choices

The current trends in paver colours, much like paint, tiles, carpet and so on is for warm neutrals such as whites, creams, light and dark greys.

A few points worth noting when it comes to your paver colour are both light and heat. Stark whites if in direct sunlight can be quite glarey through the peak of the day and likewise, deep heavily colours like charcoals and black can create and hold heat increasing the surface temperature on a hot summers day.

Keep in mind that with the small sample you see on display will always appear lighter once home and laid in a large area.

Next, recognise that colour can affect the apparent size of a space. Lighter pavers can make a space look larger and darker colours can make a space look smaller and more intimate. If you can't decide what colour works best, go neutral! It's much easier to match any future enhancements in a space with neutral colours.

Calculating Area

Eg. length of 10m x width of 2m = 20m²

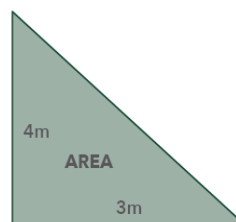
When planning, make sure you allow for storm water run off and think about any other services you may want laid under the paving such as irrigation or electrical for lighting before you begin.

For rectangular areas
base(m) x height(m) = area(m²)



eg. 3m x 5m = 15m²

For triangular areas
 $1/2 \times \text{base(m)} \times \text{height(m)}$
= area(m²)



eg. $1/2 \times 3\text{m} \times 4\text{m} = 6\text{m}^2$

For odd shaped areas

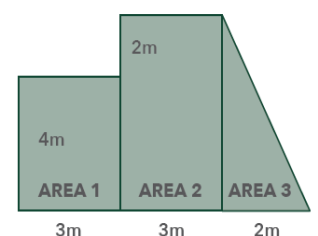
break into sections

Area 1: 4m x 3m = 12m²

Area 2: 6m x 3m = 18m²

Area 3: $1/2 \times 2\text{m} \times 6\text{m} = 6\text{m}^2$

Total area to be paved = 36m²





I want to pave my shed

If you're paving in a shed, then you want something that is durable but also you'll want it to be cost effective. A budget range paver or even seconds pavers are perfect for areas such as shed, chicken coops or in areas that are not in high visible areas.

What can I use for stepping stones?

Most large pavers can be used for step stones or you can choose a paver that is specifically designed for stepping stones.

I would love a product that I can use inside my home as well as outside

A lot of people these days want the one product they can use inside and outside to get a completely matching style for their home. If you want matching indoor and outdoor products, ensure that the paver you choose is also available in a 12mm indoor tile. 12mm tiles are laid on concrete and 30mm pavers are laid on sand or mortar.

Our Stoneware range and some of our Travertine range are perfect for exactly this purpose.

Do a need a certain thickness paver?

For general paving around your home, a 30mm or 40mm paver is required. However for driveways, vehicle access areas or very high foot traffic spaces, a 50mm paver is needed.

Small or Large Format

Your internal tiles, or size of the space may dictate your paver size choice. As a general rule of thumb, small pavers with more joins can make an area feel smaller and larger pavers with less joins can simplify the space and create a more open feel.

The current trend in pavers is large format squares and rectangles from 400x400mm right up to 1200x600mm. These larger pavers mean less product to shift and lay but make sure you consider the weight of each paver - as these pavers weigh up to 34kg each, and if you or your tradesman need to move these pavers by hand that can add to your bill (or fitness!). More traditional designs tend to incorporate a more traditional paver, such as smaller clay pavers sized at 230x115mm. These smaller pavers allow for more scope in laying patterns that you don't get with a larger paver. Other times a smaller paver may come in handy such as against garden beds, smaller pavers are easier to manipulate around curves which will allow you to minimise your cuts and wastage.

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Do I need a specific type of paver for around my pool?

Not all pavers are created equal. Some are salt and slip resistant as well as cool under foot. These are important features for your paving around your pool. Some pavers don't absorb as much heat, meaning they are cool under your feet. Matching coping, step treads and bullnose or drop face / rebated edge are also factors you'll want to consider when choosing your paver to ensure you have a completely cohesive and seamless look.

Will they stain from my BBQ?

Some pavers can stain and some are stain resistant. You should make sure you read the benefits of your pavers to ensure you are selecting a stain resistant and durable paver for around BBQ. Otherwise, you should ensure that you use a paving sealer to help reducing staining and make cleaning easier.

Will they fade?

Some pavers may naturally over a period of time, lighten slightly if in full sun. There are also pavers that will not change their appearance or fade at all. You can also apply a paving sealer to reduce your pavers from fading.

Will red wine stain my pavers?

If you love your red wine and love to entertain, then worrying about staining your pavers can be a concern, unless you choose from APC's range of stain resistant pavers.

Depending on what paver you chose then yes, your pavers can be stained by red wine. You can use a paving sealer to help minimise staining and protect your pavers and help make cleaning your pavers easier.

If you already have some stained pavers, the great thing about paving is that you can easily replace the pavers that were stained.

You can also view our 'Paver Maintenance and Remedies' brochure for any trouble shooting with soiled pavers.

How readily available are they?

Most pavers are made here in Australia or Adelaide. Some natural stone, Travertine and Marble are imported from overseas, like Turkey.

For smaller businesses that cannot hold a lot of inventory, there may be a long wait time for stock to arrive as they order stock as required. However, at Australian Paving Centre, we always try to ensure we

have plenty of stock available across all stores so that you can complete your paving projects quickly.

Are they likely to be discontinued in the future if I need more?

If you are looking for a paver that you know you'll require more of in future, make sure to ask if a product is part of their ongoing range.

How hot do they get?

Most pavers will withhold a certain level of heat when exposed to the sun.

If you are looking for a paving product that won't burn your feet, you should look for the feature 'cool under foot' from your paver choice. This means that they don't retain heat and are cooler to walk on. These types of pavers are popular to have around pool areas as people will generally be in bare feet so a cool under foot paver is important.

Our Limestone and Travertine pavers are perfect to achieve cool under foot paving.

Will they crack?

If your base preparation and your pavers have been laid correctly, plus you have selected the correct thickness paver for your requirements (eg 50mm for driveways

/ vehicles) then your pavers should not crack, unlike poured concrete.

How hard are they to lay?

There are many DIY resources available these days and laying pavers can be fairly straight forward.

If you plan to do your paving project yourself, you can make the job easier by minimising the number of cuts you have to do.

View our range of resources in our Knowledge Centre on our website.

Our expert staff can help with your paving choice by working with you to find what benefits and features of your paving is required.

All our products on our website list the products features and benefits to help you find what you need.

You can also visit your nearest APC store or phone them, to talk through your paving project and choice of pavers.

