LET’S GET STARTED

You’re going to need some important tools in order to accomplish your walkway with less headaches and potentially costly mistakes.
MATERIALS NEEDED

These materials include (but are not always limited to):

- Landscape Fabric Underlayment
- Stone Base Aggregate
- Stone Dust
- Walkway material of Choice
- Polymeric Joint Stabilizing Sand (if desired)
- Edge Restraint w/ PVC, wood, or concrete
- Cleaning and Sealant Material (if desired)
After you have acquired the necessary tools and equipment needed to accomplish the construction of your walkway it's time to get its potential size and dimensions.

It helps to mark out your desired walkway with yard paint, garden hose or rope to foresee the future size and shape of your walkway.

Get the length, width, and depth of entire base.

These dimensions will help you figure the quantity of materials that will be needed to install your walkway.
Now that you have your dimensions you can apply them to calculate the amount of material you’ll need.

Here is an easy conversion to keep in mind:
For converting cubic feet into cubic yards take your length x width x height (in feet) and divide it by 27 (to give you the actual volume in cubic yards).

*Example (Calculation Compaction Stone Base):*

16 ft. x 12 ft. x .5 ft. = 96 Cubic Feet
96 Cu. Ft. divide x 27 = 3.56 Cubic Yards
(or just over 3.5 Cu. Yds. Of Compaction Stone Base Material)

Order your material
The excavation of your base should exceed at least 6 inches beyond the predetermined size of your walkway on all sides. This “over excavation” allows for strength and stability of walkway material, drainage, and room for slight adjustment of actual finished size of your walkway.

Depth of walkway base excavation is determined by sub soil conditions, walkway usage (driveway, patio, retention, etc.), and building / structural obstacles. A standard to go by is assuming that your pavers or walkway material will be from 1 ½”-2 ½” thick, your total excavation depth should be 8-9 ½”. This takes into account a 6” compaction stone base, an approximately ½” crushed stone base, and a 1 ½” – 2 ½” thick walkway material.

A string line and / or painted markings help insure your excavation remains accordingly to how you want your walkway to finish.

After the base is excavated to the proper depth, it is very important to compact the sub soil with the use of a vibratory plate compactor or hand held compactor to insure that the excavated soil base will minimally settle unevenly. **NOTE: Compact sub-base thoroughly**
BASE MATERIALS
INSTALLATION

- Install your fabric underlayment. This fabric does not act as a weed barrier! It is a semi-permeable barrier separating the compacted sub soil from the compaction base material. It also acts as soil stabilizer; strengthening the base and increasing the longevity of your walkway.

- After the fabric underlayment is installed, begin adding your compaction stone material (quarry process stone) in lifts of 2 inches, leveling and compacting properly between each lift. Do this step until you have a minimum 6 inch compacted base. You will need to dampen the compaction to gain a proper moisture level for proper compaction rates.

- This is called proctor density.
Compacting your stone base is not the only task that is crucial while setting the base for your walkway. While setting your lifts of compaction stone you should also be leveling the stone according to your predetermined pitch (different applications may require different pitch ratings). Pitch is what determines water runoff and flow which is very important for outdoor structures. By setting your level and pitch as you build the base upward, you’re creating the direction the water is going to run off.
HOW TO SET PITCH

- Every 4 feet, you should slope down ½”.
- Place stakes around the perimeter and mark stakes with the slope decline.
- Place a string tightly on the stakes to indicate the height level to follow.
PUT DOWN LAYER OF STONE DUST

- The stone dust is the material that is used for the final leveling of the base and is an easy aggregate for leveling irregular sized materials such as natural stones.
- This stone dust will be leveled, and compacted as the final base prior to laying your walkway materials… this is very crucial to the outcome of your walkway!
- The easiest ways to level the stone dust is hand held masonry trowels and straight edge wood sections.
EXAMPLE OF LEVELING
IT’S MATERIAL INSTALLATION TIME!

- Start installation at structure side, if applies. Depending on material used with the exception of pavers, you want to leave a ¼” to 1 ½” gap between pieces for proper drainage and aesthetics.
- DO NOT WALK on prepared stone dust. Stand on materials you have already installed and work your way out.
- Cut material as needed.
- Once the material is placed, use a hand held rubber mallet and or hand tamper with rubber side to set your material.
CUTTING EDGES

- Mark desired edge to be cut with flexible pvc pipe and marking crayon.
PAVER EDGE RESTRAINT

- After laying your walkway in the shape and style you desire, it’s time to install the edging restraint. This helps to “hold your walkway in place.” It is a strength and stability application that aids in keeping your walkway together and stable over time.

- It is recommended to use either a sturdy, rigid PVC edge restraint, wood, or concrete.
This illustration shows PVC edge restraint with pavers.
This illustration shows wood restraint used with pavers.
Now that the walkway material has been secured with a sturdy PVC edge restraint or concrete you can sweep in the interlocking bonding agent. Polymeric sand is a bonding sand that “grouts” the walkway material and adds to the walkway’s strength and stability, but also makes the material “pop” with a beautiful outlined appearance all while eliminating potential weeds, insects, moss, and mold!

*NOTE: Properly installing and curing polymeric sand takes care and patience. Remember to read all product labels and follow directions diligently!*
SEAL YOUR MATERIAL

• For additional durability, seal the walkway material with an appropriate sealing product. Look for non-toxic paver or stone sealer.
HOW TO CARE
FOR YOUR NEW WALKWAY

- Sweep or hose down your walkway on a regular basis.
- Seal your material every 2-3 years. The use of sealer will help you maintain the color and that "new look“. Stains and spills will be much easier to remove.
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