

How to Prepare to “Dry Set” a Patio

A dry set patio can add additional living space to your outdoor area. No “special” tools or expertise are needed.

You will need:

Shovels (flat and pointed)
Rake (hard)
Compactor (hand tamp or plate compactor)
Level (torpedo, 2 foot or 4 foot)
Rock Hammer
Wheelbarrow
Rubber Mallet (or rawhide)
Push Broom
Stone Saw (depending on your plan)
Granite Sand
Crush-n-run (ROC)
Landscape edging (depending on your plan)
Landscape fabric (depending on your plan)
Patio material of your choice (Pavers, flagstone, etc.)

CALCULATIONS:

When placing your order add 10% for loss due to shoveling, moving, etc. , plus additional sand if you plan to use sand to fill between your patio material.

Granite Sand: Coverage is approximately 100 Square Feet at 2 inch depth per ton.

Crush-n-run (ROC): Coverage is approximately 100 Square Feet at 2 inch depth per ton.

PREPARATION

1. **CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!!!!** (Call 8-1-1 or go <http://call811.com> for more information).
You do not want to have to pay to repair broken utilities!
2. **Mark** the proposed area to get your measurements. This also helps you visualize where you patio will be installed.
3. Measure the area you have marked out.
4. Plan for .25 inch slope for every 1 foot of patio-this will allow water to drain and not pool on the patio. Slope the patio in one direction (away from the house!).
5. Research the recommended base depth for your chosen patio material and traffic.
6. Remove soil from planned area. (Example: Paver thickness + 2” Base + 1” Sand = 5” excavation)
7. Once the soil is removed place landscape fabric over excavated area. This step is optional but is highly recommended for areas that don’t drain well or have high traffic. The fabric helps keep the soil and base material separated and provides additional support.

8. Set landscape edging around the perimeter. This step is also optional but will contain your base material during compaction.
9. Spread and compact the base material working with 2" at a time. (Example: if you are laying down a 5" base, only spread 2", compact, spread next 2" on top and compact again, repeat. If you are doing a large area, consider renting a plate compactor from your local rental center to save time and energy. Spraying water over the base material can also aid the compaction process.
10. Once the base has been completely compacted, you can spread your granite sand over the base. The sand will assist you in leveling your patio pavers. Getting the sand smooth and level is key. Lay two pieces of 1" OD (outside diameter) pipe on the base parallel to each other creating "rails", spread sand between the pipes slightly burying each pipe. Use a 2x4 slightly wider than the span between the two pipes, start at one end and drag the 2x4 along the "rails" leveling the sand as you go. Remove excess or add additional to low areas as you go. Pull up the "rails" and go on to the next section.

INSTALLATION

1. Install your patio material (according to material instructions supplied by manufacturer).