

Laying a small circular patio

from www.GardenAdvice.co.uk



Over the last few years pre-formed circular patio slabs have become very popular in modern garden design. They are a great way to establish a seating area in your garden without it becoming a dominant feature, as their shape is softer than the standard, square or oblong, patio.

Over the last 12 months the GardenAdvice landscape crews have laid a number of these patios and have created a method of laying them that is quick and effective.

In this guide we have set out the GardenAdvice.co.uk method for laying circular patios.



You will need

- Patio base, prepared
- Sharp sand
- Cement
- Straight length of wood
- Spirit level
- Light hammer
- Soft brush
- Wallpaper scraper
- Watering can with rose

The job

- Step 1. Dry mix layer
- Step 2. Central stone
- Step 3. Re-level
- Step 4. Lay rings
- Step 5. Fill joints
- Step 6. Sweep & water

Start With: Patio base

The first stage is to create a base for the patio -for details on how to do this please visit the following page on our website

<http://www.gardenadvice.co.uk/gardenbuild/patiobase/index.html>



Step 1 Dry mix layer

With the base created, the next stage is to create some dry mix with sand and cement, using 6 parts sand to 1 part cement. The sand should be grit or sharp sand as it is more workable. Once mixed, spread it over the patio base using a straight length of wood. The objective is to create an even layer over the base, about 10-mm thick. Once

you are happy that the patio base is covered with an even layer then you can move on to stage two.



Step 2 Central stone

Place the central stone in the middle of the base making sure with a spirit level that the stone is level. Then, placing a block of wood on top of it, gently tamp the wood with a light hammer to bed this central slab into the dry sand and cement mix.



Step 3 Re-level

With the central slab laid, using your straight piece of wood work your way around this central slab re-leveling the dry sand and cement mix and removing any foot prints you have created whilst laying the central slab.



Step 4 Lay rings

Now that the dry sand and cement bed is level again, you can start to lay the next ring of slabs around the central slab. To do this place all the slabs in the ring and make sure the ring fits together. If you have any problems remember that the way the circle patio is designed means that slabs for the second and third ring will not fit into the first ring. Once you are happy that the slabs are fitting together properly and that all the gaps

are even, you can, using the block of wood, gently tamp each slab into the dry sand and cement bed, making sure with the spirit level that the levels are correct.

A good tip here is to place a straight piece of wood across the width of the ring and



then check with a spirit level to make sure that the first slab ring is level or, in the case of large patios, has a slight fall to one side to shed rain water.

Next repeat step 3 to remove any footprints and re-level the dry sand and cement bed. Repeat process 4 to complete the third paving ring.



Step 5 Fill joints

With all the rings to the patio laid, and once you are happy with the levels, the next step is to spread a mixture of dry sand and cement over the patio, 4 parts sand, 1 part cement. Start by brushing it into the joints. Then work it in with an old wallpaper scraper or thin piece of metal. This will help to firm the patio slabs up. Whilst doing this, it is important to try not to stand on the slabs too much and if you have to, tread only in the centres and not the edges.



Step 6 Sweep and water

Finally, with the joints filled with the dry mix, sweep the excess of the patio with a soft brush leaving only the dry mix in the joints. For this reason, laying a patio using this method is best carried out on a dry weather day. Once you have removed the excess dry mix from the slabs lightly water the new patio with a watering can and a fine rose, and try to wash off any cement stains from the slabs into the joints. In carrying out this final operation you need to make sure that the patio does not become over-wet as this will wash away the cement from the dry sand and cement mix you placed in the

joints.

Once this operation is complete, allow to dry for 24 hours before use or walking on the new patio.

Tips

A sharp or grit sand is easier to work with in this project than a softer builders sand.

This is definitely a gardening project for a dry day

Time spent creating a level patio base will save hours when it comes to laying the final slabs.

Using weed sheeting under the patio base or slabs will save you money on expensive weed killers in the coming years.

Written by T. W.

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