



Things you need to know **BEFORE YOU START**

HOMEOWNER **PROJECT GUIDE**



UNILOCK[®]
DESIGNED TO CONNECT.



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At Unilock, we believe that the outside of your home should be as beautiful, functional and welcoming as the inside of your home.

This guide is designed to make your landscape project as simple as possible by helping you pick the perfect paver, choose the best landscape contractor and understand proper installation methods.

In addition, we offer multiple resources to assist you every step of the way. We're confident that you'll be inspired by all that Unilock has to offer.



HELP IS JUST A CLICK AWAY

We know that planning an outdoor project is stressful and at times can feel overwhelming, but by researching a few key things, you can create the outdoor space you've always dreamed of.

Help is just a click away at Unilock.com.

PRODUCT DETAILS

Get detailed information on all product features, sizes, shapes, colors, laying patterns and design combinations.

FINDING EXPERTS

Looking for a Unilock Professional Installer? Dealer? Or expert advice from a product specialist? We'll put you in touch with whomever you need!

PROJECT IDEAS

We've got hundreds of inspiring images, tips on choosing colors and patterns, and how to make your project special.



SELECTING THE PERFECT PRODUCT

Choosing a paver that **reflects your style and application** are both important. For example, light colored pavers are popular for pool deck applications because they are cooler to walk on. Whereas our products featuring **EasyClean™ Technology** make surfaces subject to staining, such as driveways and outdoor kitchens, resistant to dirt, grease and oils.

Take into account all of the key elements in your existing landscape, the architecture of your home, and exterior colors. It's important to **make sure all of these elements flow** nicely and your pavers don't compete with the natural beauty of your existing outdoor space.

Make your project more unique by **adding a border or accent**. Select the main paver and then complement with one or two accents.



*Lastly, its important to remember the majority of the project budget is base materials and labor. Choosing a premium paver or wall product **won't drastically impact** the overall project cost.*

(See page 7)



PRODUCT QUALITY

Many products will look great when they're first installed, but in time, the difference in quality shows. **ALL PRODUCTS ARE NOT CREATED EQUAL!**



When it comes to quality products and workmanship, Unilock® sets the standard. We introduced the **industry's first lifetime guarantee** over 30 years ago. And while other manufacturers have tried to imitate it, you just have to see them side by side to get the difference. Theirs are padded with self-protecting fine print and stipulations. Ours is not. For us it's simple. *Visit Unilock.com.*

Unilock products have a reputation for manufacturing excellence.

COLOR: Deep, rich color choices and natural color blends are characteristics that make Unilock products unique. Our synthetic iron oxide pigments are non-fading, weatherproof, UV-resistant and outperform natural counterparts.

STRENGTH: The compressive strength of Unilock pavers and walls exceeds industry standards and ranges from 7,000 psi on small wall products, to more than 12,000 psi on some pavers.

SURFACE TECHNOLOGY: Unilock pavers are designed to tolerate oil and gas spills, resistant to salt and chlorine erosion, and slip-resistant. Look for EasyClean™, Ultima™, ColorFusion™, and Reala™.

GOOD STANDARD THRUMIX



Brussels Block® - Tumbled Finish

The product mix of large and small aggregates is consistent, from top to bottom, with color mixed throughout. The Unilock® Classic pavers we manufacture exceed all ASTM standards for quality and strength.

BETTER FACEMIX

ENDURING COLOR

Concentrated color and special wear-resistant materials

UNITED WITH

STRENGTH

Coarser foundation that gives the stone its strength



Profile View

ENDURACOLOR™

Facemix products are manufactured in a two-step process which combines a base of coarser aggregates for a stronger foundation, with concentrated color and wear-resistant finer aggregates on top. The top layer of concentrated color prevents lighter color aggregates from ever showing through.

BEST ENDURACOLOR™ PLUS ARCHITECTURAL FINISHES



A NEW STANDARD FOR EVERLASTING BEAUTY.

Unilock offers EnduraColor™ Plus Architectural Finishes.

A complex blend of nature's highest performing minerals are combined to create ultra-realistic surface textures that are exceptionally durable. Proprietary manufacturing technologies like Ultima™, EasyClean™, ColorFusion™ and Reala™ give these products added benefits in terms of beauty and function.



VISIT A UNILOCK® OUTDOOR IDEA CENTER

WE ARE SURE YOU WILL COME AWAY INSPIRED!

Come for a visit to see, touch and experience everything Unilock® has to offer. Get inspired by the many product combinations that can make your project special. You can pick up some samples to take home with you!





SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING YOUR VISIT:

- See an expansive display of products in actual settings
- **FREE SAMPLES** of all paver and wall products and colors
- Get help and questions answered from knowledgeable staff on hand
- Receive a Homeowner Project Kit
- Pick up a **FREE** catalog
- Learn about EnduraColor™ products and their benefits
- Assistance with local dealer locations



Visit [Unilock.com](https://www.unilock.com) for
location and hours.



FINDING AND CHOOSING A CONTRACTOR

The most important decision of all is choosing the right contractor for the job. The truth is, even the best designs and materials can be ruined by poor installation and workmanship. Below are some questions you should ask. Any reputable firm won't be offended by questions.

- How long have they been in the landscape business?
- Do they have liability insurance and are they covered by Workers' Compensation?
- Do they have the appropriate licensing for their work?
- Do they have a website?
- Do they offer a design service? Is 3D design available?
- Do they have a list of references?
- What warranty do they offer? Do the products they recommend have a warranty?
- What is their timeline for your project?
- What is their clean-up routine?



- What is their landscape training and background? How are their employees trained? Do they attend manufacturer training sessions?
- What landscape jobs have they done that are similar to what you need done? Do they know how to build outdoor living features such as fireplaces and grill islands?
- Have they provided you with any manufacturer's literature? Does the literature provide you with design ideas? What is the manufacturer's reputation? Warranty?
- Are there any permits required for this job? Whose responsibility is it to get these permits?
- What are their payment terms?
- Do they do the entire job with their own staff or subcontract parts out? Who are their subcontractors?
- Base preparation is a key factor in every paver and wall installation. Ask them about how they handle the base preparation.
- Drainage is also a key factor in every landscape job. Ask them how they plan to handle the drainage.
- Do they provide a written contract? Get all the details in writing, no matter how big or small the job.



IN THE HANDS OF A UNILOCK AUTHORIZED CONTRACTOR

QUALITY WORKMANSHIP - GUARANTEED

Unilock® Authorized Contractors are part of an elite group whose work and business practices have met demanding standards. Unilock conducts **on-site inspections** of the contractor's work and **conducts client satisfaction reference checks** before a contractor is considered for the program. Once Unilock Authorized Contractor status is granted, these inspections continue annually, and the contractor must re-affirm that they will continue to:

- ✓ Construct all projects in accordance with the Unilock Installation Standards
- ✓ Follow the Unilock Authorized Contractor Code of Ethics
- ✓ Participate in continuing education courses
- ✓ Offer a minimum two-year workmanship guarantee*

**Visit Unilock.com for guarantee details.*



“My Unilock Authorized Contractor was someone I could interact with, who listened to my vision and who ultimately helped me through the whole process. I love my new patio, because I finally have a space I can call my own!” - Diane

EXPECT MORE

UNILOCK AUTHORIZED CONTRACTORS are true professionals who are experienced in proper site preparation, grading, base materials and compaction so you can rest assured that your project will look great and structurally perform for years to come.

But that’s not all - with a Unilock Authorized Contractor you can expect:

- Knowledgeable design advice
- A comprehensive estimate
- Quality base materials and installation practices
- A great looking project that stands the test of time

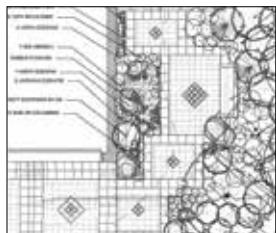
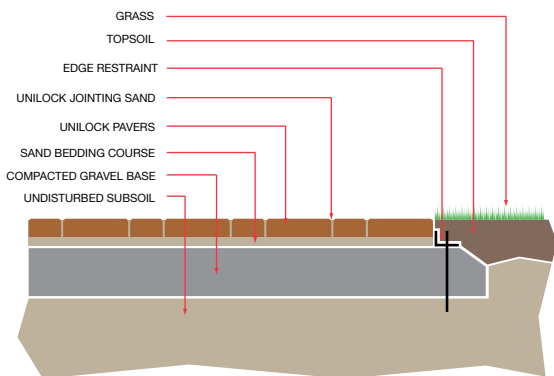


UNDERSTANDING

PAVER INSTALLATION

PAVER BASE THICKNESS		
Application	Gravel Base	Sand
Patios	6" - 8" (15 - 20 cm) minimum	3/4"- 1" (2 - 2.5 cm)
Walkways	6" - 8" (15 - 20 cm) minimum	3/4"- 1" (2 - 2.5 cm)
Pool Decks	6" - 12" (15 - 30 cm) minimum	3/4"- 1" (2 - 2.5 cm)
Driveways	10" - 14" (25 - 35 cm) minimum	3/4"- 1" (2 - 2.5 cm)

Base Gravel - Use 3/4" (2 cm) crusher run gravel/sand mix. Bedding Sand - Use a coarse concrete sand



1 PLANNING

Draw a simple plan showing measurements and grade elevations. Locate one of over 500 Unilock® Dealers at Unilock.com and bring your plan to the dealer. He or she will help you calculate the correct amount of materials and estimate the cost of your project. The dealer will also have displays and product and color samples for you to choose from, as well as basic helpful advice.



2 PREPARATION

Mark out the location of the patio, walkway, or driveway. Call the utilities, phone company, and cable TV provider to locate any buried cables and/or services.



3 EXCAVATION

Excavate to a minimum of 6" - 12" deep, depending on your application type. Excavate deeper if the soil had previously been disturbed. Remove all loose soil.



4 BASE

Begin placing gravel and compact with a gas-powered plate compactor in layers 2" - 3" thick. Grade the base as close to the final contour of the finished job as possible. Continue until desired height is achieved and base is solid. Slope all installations away from the house/building for drainage purposes.



5 SCREEDING

Pavers are laid on a bed of coarse sand placed directly on the compacted base. Use 3/4" - 1" diameter pipes as screeding guides on top of the gravel. Set up the guides so that your pavers will be 3/8" above the finished level (this allows for your final compaction). Level the sand evenly by pulling a board along the pipes. After screeding, remove the guides and fill in the remaining grooves with sand.





6 BANDING

Banding and accents are easy to install and make your installation unique. If you are installing circles, fans, borders, or accents, place these first before installing the main pattern. Bring the main field to your accent field and cut the pavers to fit the design.



7 LAYING THE PAVERS

Lay the pavers in the desired pattern directly on the screeded bed of sand. Always start along the longest straight side; this will minimize the cutting required. To keep the joint lines straight, use a string line guide. Do not lay the pavers too closely together. If they are laid too tightly, then any attempt to straighten the lines will be difficult and you will not have the proper amount of sand between the joints.



8 CUTTING

Pavers that do not fit along edges or around objects may require cutting. Mark pavers and cut them with the guillotine cutter or masonry saw. A guillotine cutter is the easiest method, but to achieve a more exact cut, a "dry-cut" masonry saw or a tub-style "wet saw" works best rented from your local rental outlet.

ALWAYS WEAR APPROPRIATE SAFETY GEAR WHEN CUTTING.



9 EDGING

Edge restraints are a critical element in terms of the durability of a paver installation. They prevent the pavers from moving and shifting laterally. Both plastic and metal edge restraints are effective. Various concrete edging materials also work well with the added benefit of complementing the pavers with color and texture. Edge restraints must always be spiked into the compacted base. Do not place on soil.



10 COMPACTING

After all the cuts have been made, and the edge restraints are in place, the pavers must be swept clean and then compacted with a plate compactor. This helps settle the pavers into the bedding sand and creates a flat surface. When compacting EnduraColor™ Plus products, ensure that a compactor protector plate is being used. In all cases, we recommend a minimum of three passes, with the compactor going in alternating directions each time.



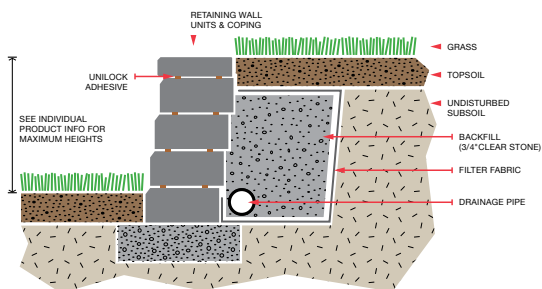
11 FINISHING

Sweep specially graded Unilock® Jointing Sand (available from your Unilock Dealer) into the joints between the pavers. This locks the pavers together creating a very durable surface. For optimum protection from the penetration of weeds and insects, use Unilock Polymeric Sand to create a sealed joint, which will also resist erosion in sloped applications. Contact Unilock, or ask your local dealer, for more information regarding the use of polymeric sand on EnduraColor Plus products.

UNDERSTANDING

WALL INSTALLATION

WALL BASE THICKNESS		
Application	Gravel Base	Backfill
Walls	6" (15 cm)	12" (300 cm)
Planters	4" - 6" (10 - 15 cm)	8" (20 cm) angled
Steps	4" - 6" (10 - 15 cm)	8" (20 cm)
Pillars	12" - 18" (30 - 46 cm)	n/a



1-2 PLANNING & PREPARATION

Draw a simple plan as instructed under paver installation.

Call the utilities, phone company, and cable TV provider to locate any buried cables and/or services.



3 EXCAVATION

Excavate a minimum of 7" - 12" below the finished grade. The width of your base should be 2 times the depth of your wall unit. Excavate more if the soil has been previously disturbed or drains poorly. Remove all loose soil.



4 BASE

Place 4" - 18" of gravel in the trench and compact in layers of 2" - 3" using a hand tamper or gas-powered vibrating compactor. Compact until very hard. Leave enough room for the first 3" of the first row of wall units to be buried below grade level. The final height of your installation will determine the exact level at which you must set your base.



5 LEVELING

Level the blocks individually using a mallet and a small level. Ensure that all blocks are leveled from side-to-side and front-to-back. After the first row is in, the rest of the units can be stacked. Some blocks styles do not have a lip or groove locking them together. In these cases we recommend that the blocks are individually glued together.



6 BACKFILLING

Add gravel backfill after every 2 rows of blocks. Use a well draining gravel. Always use a filter fabric to separate the existing soils from your gravel. Leave enough filter fabric to wrap the top. This will prevent the clear gravel from getting clogged.



7 FINISHING

When placing your final row of blocks, (in some cases this might be a special cap called "coping"), you must glue them on with Unilock's Concrete Adhesive. Always dry-fit and cut any pieces required before gluing. After the glue has set (approx. 4 - 8 hours), you may backfill with soil, put in sod, or install plants to complete your installation.



DESIGNED TO CONNECT.

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