“How-To” for a Flagstone Patio

Family Owned & Operated

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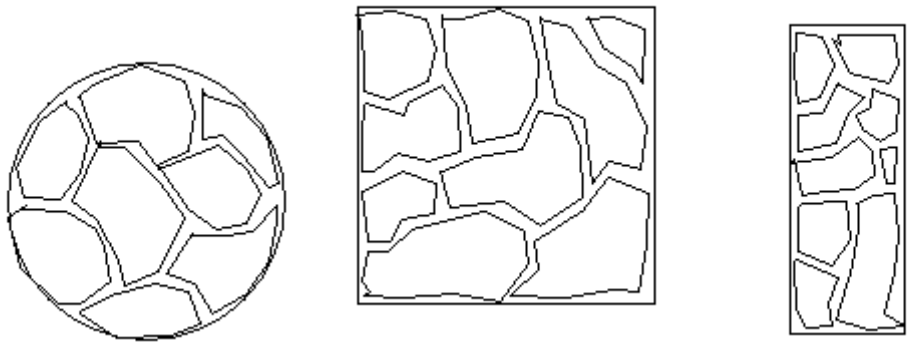
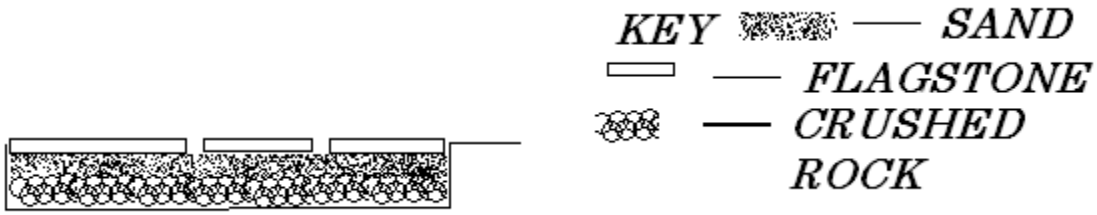
Flagstone is an ideal material for your new patio. It's durable, has a naturally non-slip surface and comes in a wide range of colors, from red and brown to pink, green, gold and beige. So you can coordinate it with virtually any home color. Plus flagstone is readily available (just go to “R” ROCK YARD) and easy to work with. Using common household tools (plus a couple of inexpensive rental tools) and some creativity, you can install your own flagstone patio over a weekend.

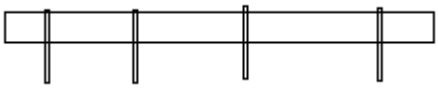
1. Determine the size and shape of your new flagstone patio, then use spray paint (or flour) to mark the outline. Square Footage is the Length multiplied by the Width of the area. You will need this in order to figure how much Flagstone and Sand is required for the new patio. Coverage charts are at the bottom of these instructions or please call or stop by today.



2. Remove the existing lawn and dig to a depth of about 4-5 inches and smooth out the bottom. You want a hole deep enough to accommodate the sand and rock base plus the height of the flagstones. The finished height of the patio should stand about 1/4" above the surrounding ground.

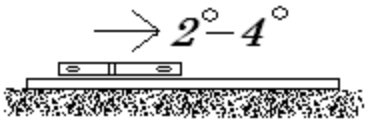


3. Install edging around the edge of your hole, following your outline. Set the top of the edging slightly below ground level. Metal edging is easy to install--just use 12" galvanized pins driven straight into the ground. The metal edging is 4”(inches) tall and 10’ (feet)long. Or you can use natural stone, concrete pavers, or retaining wall blocks.



4. Pour in a ¾” crushed rock to a depth of about 1.5” thick, and pack it down using a rented compactor or hand tamper, next pour in 1.5” of sand and compact till a solid 1.5” of sand is established. (see step 2 for diagram)

5. Ensure that the sand base is NOT level. The base should slope away from your house so water will run off the finished flagstone patio and into your yard, not into your basement. You can use a regular level fastened to a board to check that the base has a grade.



6. Lay your flagstone in the hole and move the pieces until you figure out your final arrangement. If possible, use full stones and minimize the amount of cutting you'll need to do (if any at all). Mark the stones where you want to make cuts.(if desired)

7. Remove the stones, make the cuts and lay the flagstones back into the base.

8. Partially fill the seams between the stones with sand (use a push broom to get it into the cracks). Fill the rest about an inch with breeze (1/4”-3/8” crusher fines available in several colors, Most common.), up to ¾” rock (but a 3/8” chip is preferred / size of pea gravel), polymer sand (a hardening sand), or topsoil (for moss or liken).

9. **TIPS:**

Lay a piece of scrap plywood on your lawn as a place to cut your flagstones.

Use a rented masonry saw to cut your flagstones. You could also use a circular saw with a masonry blade, but a masonry saw is more powerful and will make the job quicker and easier. Or for a more natural looking cut use a hammer and chisel.

- Flagstone, edging, breeze, polymer sand, sand, and much are available at “R” Rock Yard.
- You can "make" your own sand compactor using a 4 x 4 to flatten the sand.
- The smaller the gaps between your flagstones; the less sand you will need to fill them.
- You will likely need to add more sand to fill up the cracks in the first couple of weeks after installing your new patio. Large gaps loose sand faster than small/tight gaps.
- A masonry saw cutting flagstone creates heavy dust. Wear a dust mask and eye protection.
- When using polymer sand make sure you do not have any polymer sand on the flagstone when you wet it down. (it will adhere to the flagstone)
- Or just come on down to “R” Rock Yard and we can answer all your questions.

FLAGSTONE COVERAGE
100 - 125 sq. feet per ton

Sand/Rock Coverage
1” deep covers approx. 240 sq ft per ton
1.5 “ deep covers approx. 175 sq ft per ton