

INTERLOCKING PAVE MAT INSTALLATION

1. SURFACE REQUIREMENTS

EXTERIOR

Mat sections are best installed over a concrete sub-base that is a minimum of 3.5 inches thick and conforms to local building codes. Installation of mats must also comply with local building codes. The entire installation surface must be clean and flat, and free of sealants, grease or other oily compounds. Prior surface preparation may be required for old or existing surfaces.

INTERIOR

Apply over wire lath and scratch coat or over a concrete sub-base. Always refer to local building codes for sub-floor requirements. The entire installation surface must be clean and flat, and free of sealants, grease or other oily compounds.

2. STARTING POINT

Always start laying the mats from a corner of the room, and usually the corner furthest away from the door or exit point. Start by dry laying (no mortar) 4 or 5 mats to determine the best placement and positioning. Place mats with approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ " grout joint between. Once this has been determined, snap a chalk line along the outer edge of the mats and ensure all subsequent mats along the first row are installed along this line.

3. SPREADING MORTAR

Once you are ready to begin laying the mats, use a $\frac{1}{2}$ " notched trowel to spread an even layer of mortar or flexible bonding agent onto your sub-base. Spread the mortar out in an area that is slightly larger than the size of your first section of mat. Please note the setting time for the type of mortar you are using and work within that time. Some applications may require adding an acrylic bonding agent to the mortar. For interior installations, thin set mortar may be used.

4. SETTING THE MATS

Place the mat into position and firmly press it into the mortar bed to ensure that the mesh backing is embedded into the mortar and that there is a bond between the stone and mortar. If you encounter a low stone, simply remove that stone from the mat and add extra mortar to that area. Place the stone in the same location with the added mortar and firmly press the stone down into the mortar until it is the same height as the other stones. Use a level or other straight edge to confirm a flat and uniform surface from one piece of stone to the next. Gentle taps from a large rubber mallet will effectively take down any high stones. Repeat steps #3 and #4 until you've covered all surfaces that do not require custom cutting/fitting along borders, walls or edges.

INTERLOCKING PAVE MAT INSTALLATION

5. MAKING TEMPLATES

Where your mats will butt up against walls or other straight borders, it's helpful to create a template (using light cardboard) to show you the exact shape of the partial mat section needed to fill the void. Simply place a straight edge of your cardboard along the wall and trace the outline of the area to be filled.

6. CUTTING MAT SECTIONS

Identify the section of full mat that best fits the area to be filled. Use the template to mark the straight line (that corresponds with the wall) onto the section of mat that must be cut. Cut the marked mat with a wet saw. For smaller wet saws, the stones may need to be removed from the mat and each stone cut independently. If this method must be used, ensure that only one stone is removed at a time. Once the stone has been cut, place it back into its original position prior to removing and cutting the next stone. This will ensure the proper fit of the stones into the void are on the floor. Once the desired shape has been cut, install the cut stones by following step #3 and #4.

7. APPLYING GROUT

Allow the mortar beneath the mats to dry for at least 24 hours before installing grout. Some mortar and weather conditions may require more time for the mortar to cure. Prepare your selected grout mixture according to the directions on the packaging. Work the grout into the spaces between each piece of natural stone and remove excess grout with a wet sponge, making sure no grout is left behind on the stone surface. Finished grouting should be level with the surface of the stone. Coloured grout can be used, be sure to ask your dealer for recommendations on grout colour choices to match your stone. If coloured grout is being used, sealing of the stone surface may be required prior to grouting.

8. SEALANT

The use of sealants is recommended in commercial or high traffic areas, or for lighter coloured stones with dark grout. This will ensure the lasting beauty and will protect the stone against spills and stains. Sealants are available in a range of finishes. Please consult with your mat supplier to ensure the correct sealant and desired look is achieved.

ADVANTAGES OF USING MATS OVER TRADITIONAL FLAGSTONE

- Quicker and easier installation.
- Thinner material means better transitions and improved clearances for doors.
- Less waste and cleaner installation procedures.
- Consistent grout joint.
- Even gauging creates a much flatter surface.
- Labour costs are much lower.
- Reduced weights make mats suitable for interior applications.