

instructions

The recommended laying procedure for Gryphonn Concrete Paving Slabs

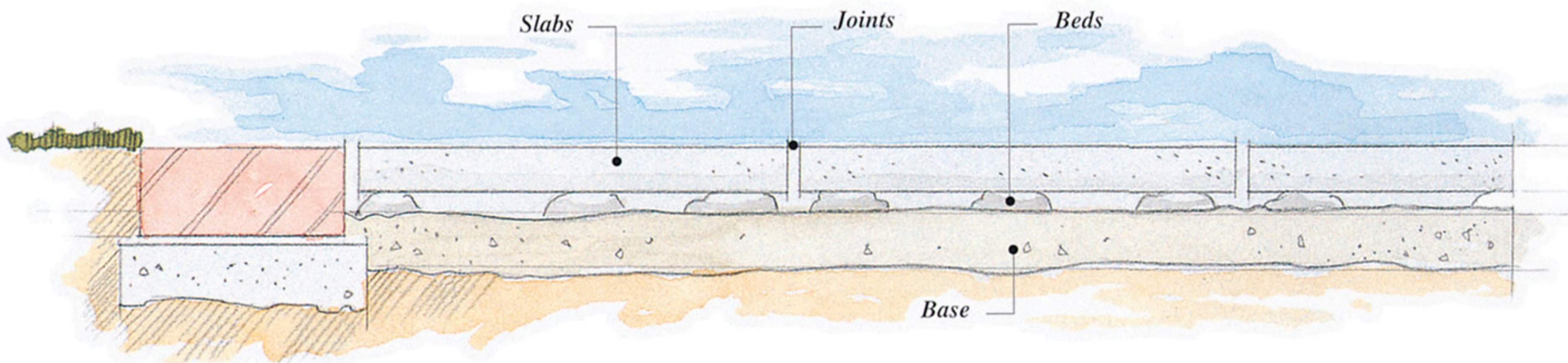
Planning

Careful planning, even the smallest of patio areas, will pay dividends at a later stage when you come to laying the slabs on site. It is advisable to draw up scaled plans on graph paper, using the dimensions of the product to govern your design and to reduce unnecessary cutting of slabs at a later stage.

Preparation

Before work on site commences, correct selection and storage of the right materials will help avoid problems on the day. When slabs are delivered they should be stacked on edge on level ground preferably on wooden battens, and covered with a waterproof sheet in order that they are dry when laid. Cement should be stored in a dry building, off the ground if possible and in a polythene bag. To avoid damage and disfigurement, slabs must be carefully stored and handled. Avoid sliding slabs over adjoining product during hand unloading and laying.

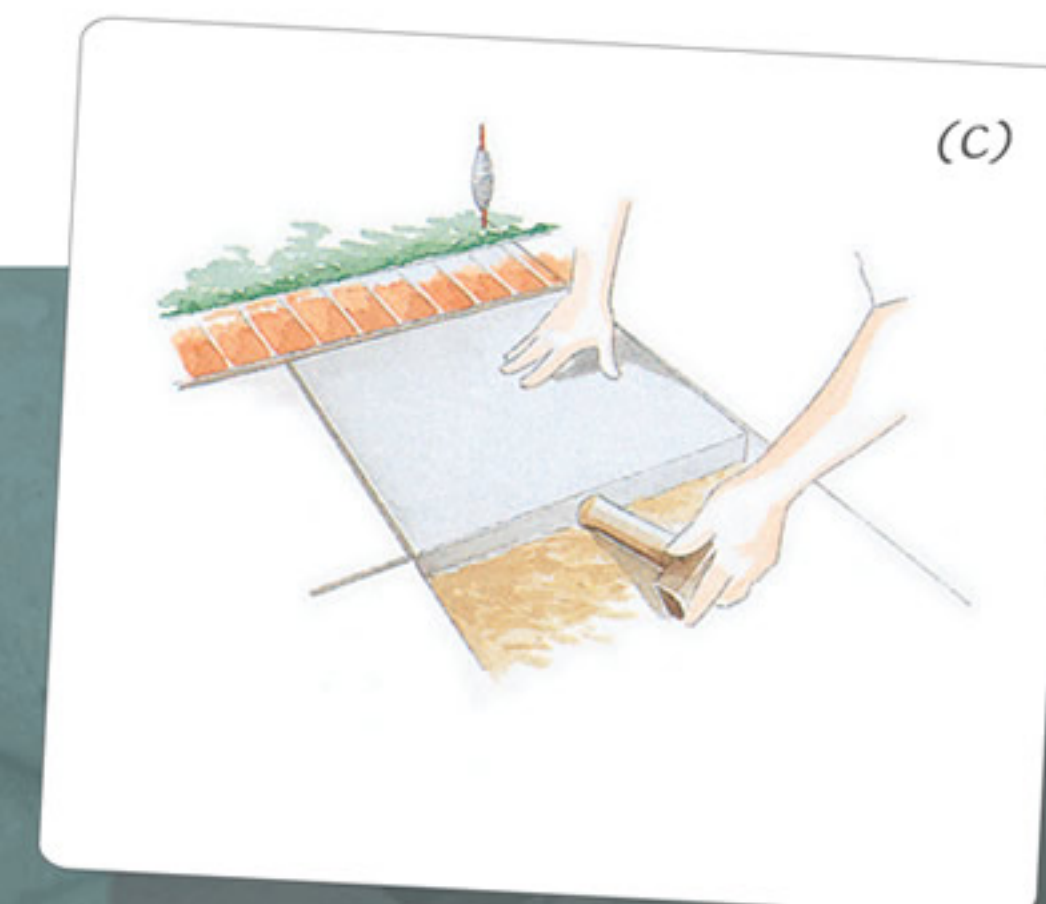
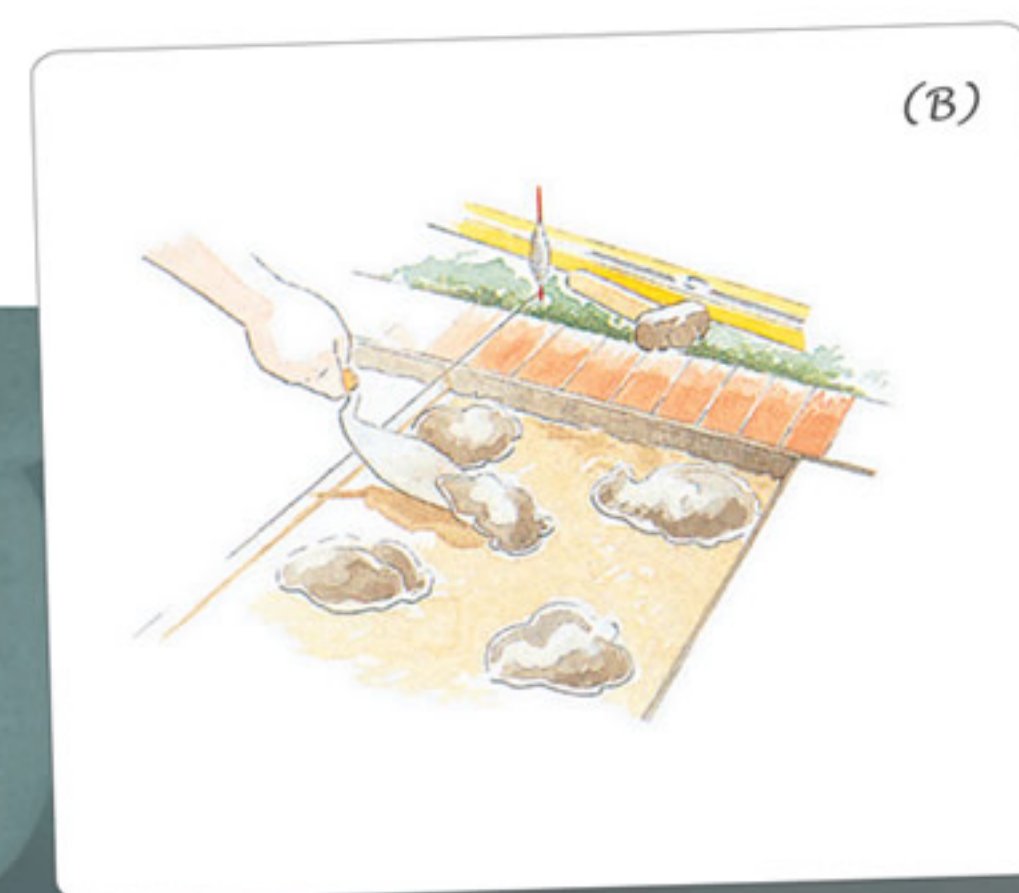
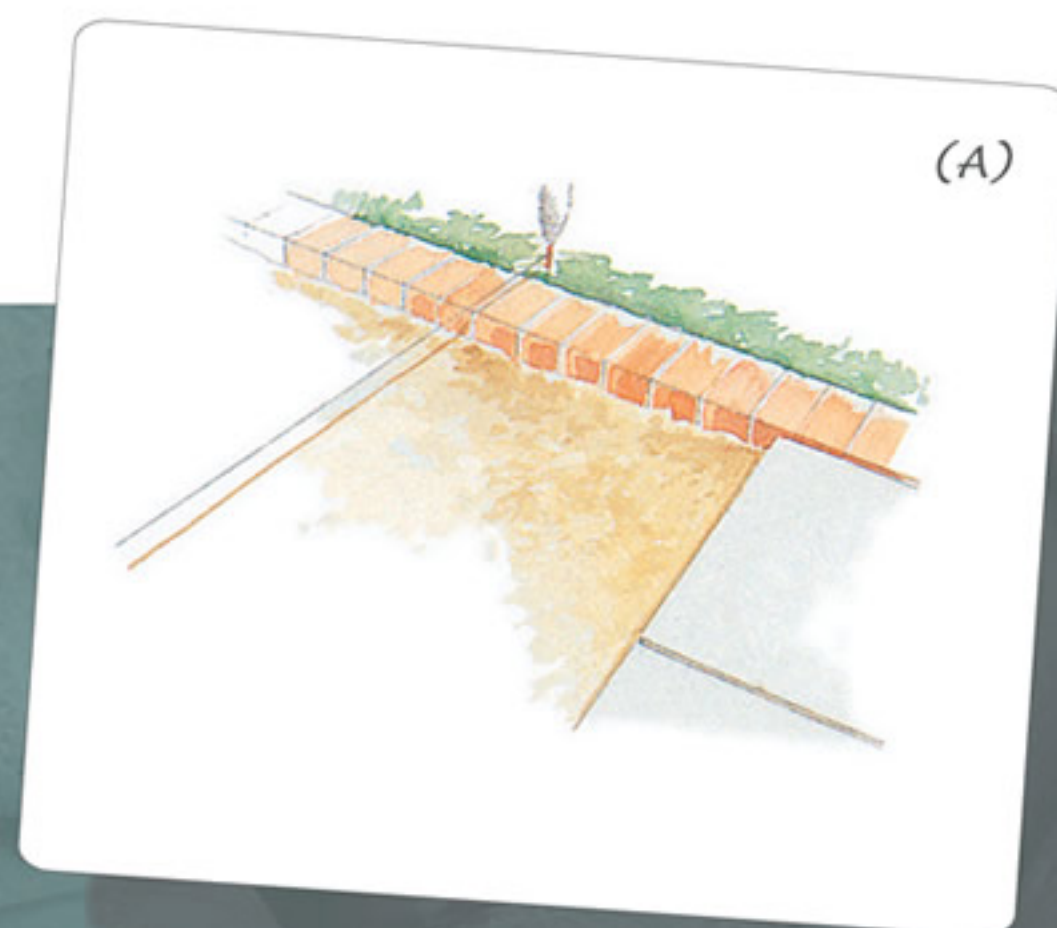
Products are manufactured from naturally occurring materials and consequently may show variations in colour and texture. Therefore it is strongly recommended that the total number of slabs required for completion of the proposed paved area are supplied from one production batch. Details of production batch numbers and dates are on all product packaging, if in doubt please contact your supplier. We recommend that product from two or more packs should be used during laying to minimise colour banding. Obvious colour variation or defective product should be immediately notified to the supplier and in all cases before laying commences.



(A) Start laying the slabs from a fixed line (either a string line or a house wall), although if the paved area adjoins a building, it must be at least 150mm below the damp course, and fall away, as already indicated.

(B) Dabs of fist size mortar (one at each corner and one in the centre) are then added. For larger slabs use more dabs of mortar. If a full joint system is to be used, previously laid slabs and hard adjoining edges should be "battered" whilst "dabbing" to receive subsequent slabs. Care should be taken to ensure that cement is kept off the surface of the slabs as it can cause staining.

(C) Using the shaft of a club hammer (or wooden mallet) the slab is tapped into general alignment and level.



Tools

Most of the tools required are normal everyday tools that many house holders already possess; wheelbarrow, spade, bucket, stringline, tape measure, trowel and club hammer - you will also need a large spirit level (about one meter long).

Large tools such as a sledge hammer, masonry disc cutter or pick can easily be hired on a daily or weekly basis.

Base

Slabs should be laid on a base layer of granular sub base (crushed stone 30/40mm to dust) laid to a minimum depth of approx 50mm thick. Avoid the use of building sand as a base as this material remains mobile and could be washed out during times of very heavy rainfall especially where slabs are laid butt jointed.

Sand also retains water and can absorb moisture from wet ground which is transferred into the base of the slabs. The base layer should be laid to the required levels between previously levelled pegs at appropriate intervals. Remember the fall of paved areas should be away from the buildings. The base should be walked in and raked or screeded off with a board to final levels.

Previously paved or concreted areas should be removed as they can provide the possibility of retaining water beneath a new paved area.

Should the ground below the paving be particularly heavy or clay based, or be known to be subject to water retention in wet periods. Then the depth of the base layer should be increased to at least 75mm thick, or a depth which ensures that the paving is not affected by standing water at any time.

Areas which are likely to suffer from poor drainage could require special attention to the methods to be employed for the removal of runoff water from the paved area as well as from the ground beneath the paving. The base construction and bedding system that is employed will have significant influence on the effective dispersal of rain/ground water which can be retained beneath the paving.

Poor drainage and or solid full bedding generally lead to high levels of moisture retained at the base/underside of slabs. This situation if allowed to persist will result in staining and discolouration of the product through absorption and

Beds

Slabs should be laid on five mortar dabs using a 5:1 sand and cement mix. Larger slabs should be laid on at least six dabs. Mortar should be normal bricklaying consistency and slabs should be carefully lowered onto the dabs and tapped to levels immediately. The dabs should be of a size to provide a void pattern beneath the slab when tapped down to finished level position. You should try not to lay dabs of such size that they all join under compression of the finished slab work.

Joints

Slabs that are laid butt jointed (ie edge to edge with no appreciable joint space) will benefit from brushing fine dry sand into the gaps to form a dry fine joint. Slabs that are laid with a joint should be laid so that the edge or edges which are to receive adjoining slabs are first "buttered" with mortar of 3:1 sand cement mix. The next adjoining slabs should be gently tapped up to the ready jointed as they are levelled in. The joint material should be generously applied to facilitate an ability for it to be forced upwards as adjoining slabs are tapped into place. The resulting excess mortar should not be removed immediately but should be allowed to dry out (which should take place fairly rapidly as a result of the rich mix).

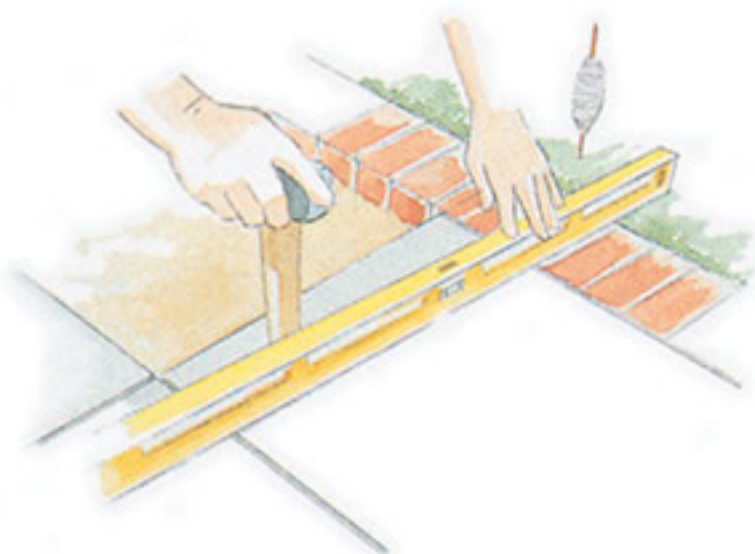
When the paved area is suitably dry the excess mortar should be struck off taking care not to get it on to the slab surface. The joint can then be ironed in.

Slabs that are to be jointed should be as dry as possible. Under no circumstances should full jointing be attempted in other than dry conditions.

A full joint may also be achieved as an alternative by carefully working the mortar mix into the slab joint space with extreme care sometime after laying. Avoid staining the slab surface with the excess mortar.

In all methods it is imperative that any mortar that is inadvertently allowed onto the slab face should be very thoroughly brushed out of the texture of the slab surface. If stains do result the remedy is to remove them with proprietary slab cleaning agents, details of which can be obtained from our technical department. Under no circumstances should semi-dry or dry mixes of sand cement be brushed into joints. This practice will definitely result in severe staining to the slab surface.

(D)

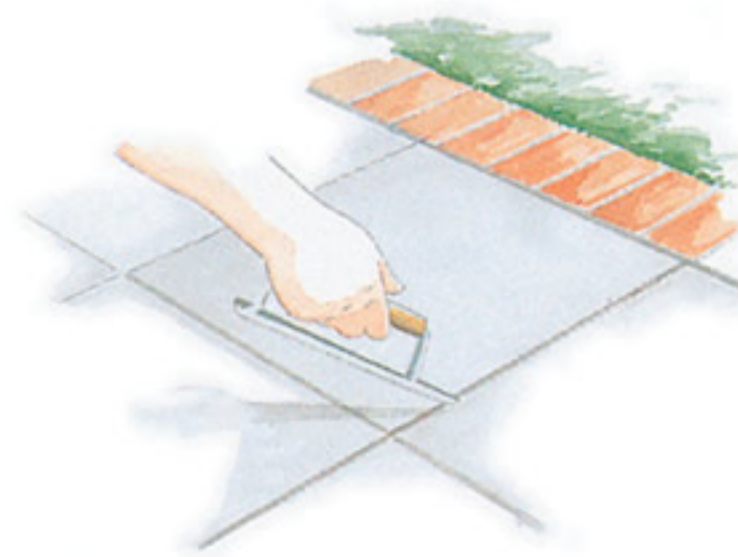


(D) When tapping slab into level it is recommended that the adjoining slabs are used as a confirmation of reference in final position of the newly laid slab.

(E) Completion of jointing should be carried out when the joint material is quite dry. Ironing the mortar joint whilst still wet will probably lead to overspill of mortar onto the slabs.

(F) If slabs are to be cut, Gryphon recommend the use of a masonry disc cutter. Protective clothing must be worn (such as goggles, gloves and facemask) when using this tool. Prior to cutting, mark the slab using a bolster or other suitable marker, and place the slab on a level area of sand or similar material to stabilise the slab whilst cutting.

(E)



(F)

