

gather Co

Tips for Installation

Cobblestones

Considerations

When choosing any hard surface product within our Gather Co range, consideration needs to be given to determine whether the product is suitable for the application.

Gather Co is pleased to provide advice and tips as an addition to the product sale. In almost all cases, we recommend following the advice of qualified and experienced installers. These tips are to be used in conjunction with the relevant Australian Standards and manufacturers installation guides.

Gather Co recommends sampling installation procedures prior to commencing site works, to ensure all necessary contingencies have been considered.

Gather Co has partnered with industry leaders to supply the very best in adhesive and sealing products. When using our recommended products, it is always advised to follow the manufacturers guides and specifications.

Our recommended brands are:

Adhesives/grouts:

Laticrete: 1800 331 012 and www.laticrete.com.au

Sealers:

Aqua Mix: 1300 278 264 and www.aquamix.com.au

When deciding on which flooring product is best suited, the following should be taken into account:

- Drainage
- Foundation requirements
- Waterproofing/bedding/bonding
- Control joints
- Storage
- Pre sealing
- Pools and Wet Areas
- Installation
- Sealing and Grouting
- Maintenance

Drainage forethoughts

Pre site evaluations will determine the appropriate drainage requirements for any project. Seeking advice and services from industry professionals will ultimately assist in the best outcome. Sufficient drainage is essential to ensure the longevity of any ground covering. Rising moisture should always be considered when designing any flooring surface and adequate measures should be applied. This involves considering effective drainage points and the 'run off' slope of substrates and final surfaces.

Substrates and foundation works

Ensuring a high quality finish involves starting with a high quality substrate. Special consideration needs to be given to determine the level of traffic that is intended for the designed floor.

When considering concrete substrates, engineer's advice should be followed. It would be understood that a general guide for slab thickness would be:

- 75mm min with reinforcement for pedestrian traffic
- 100mm min with reinforcement for vehicle traffic

As a guide, minimum 25mpa strength should be used.

Another key consideration should be to ensure the ground material under the slab is of suitable stability. When earthworks and drainage has been completed, it is vital to ensure the ground under the slab is well compacted, 'soft' spots have been addressed and water flow is managed to prevent issues arising once slab and flooring have been laid.

Curing time for the concrete needs to be given the relevant considerations also.

Movement Joints

Movement or control joints are an essential component of any substrate and flooring area.

It is important that joints follow each other through the concrete substrate and bedding and through to a flexible sealed joint in the flooring surface. Contractors should ultimately decide location and carry out effective movement joints. It may be advised to seek specific structural engineering advice for unique sites.

Variation & Tolerances

The traditional nature of full format cobblestones results in large size and thickness variations. This has been accounted for in the design and manufacturing of this product and is no way considered a flaw. Please allow for significant dimensional and colour dissimilarities when selecting this format to ensure its potential application is suitable. Appropriate installation procedures can help manage size variations. This can involve, but should not be limited to, product grading for size and thickness prior to laying as well as applying a generous mortar bed and exaugurated grout joints to accommodate variable stone dimensions.

Waterproofing and Bedding materials

Included in the substrates consideration should be waterproofing and bedding. Both promote longevity and quality for your flooring project. When using a mortar mix bed, waterproofing is expected to be carried out prior to the mortar bed.

Storage

Where possible, stone should be stored inside or covered from direct sunlight and the weather elements. Single stacked and on firm, level ground is highly recommended.

Pre-Sealing

The process of dip sealing prior to laying certain pavers and pool coping is recommended. Stones that are more porous or moisture sensitive may require sealing prior to being laid.

Always seek manufacturers advice before pre-sealing to ensure the correct product is used and that the process won't affect the bond of the chosen adhesive or mortar. An example of a quality pre sealer is ProBlock from Aqua Mix (1300 278 264).

Pools and Wet Areas

In areas where exposure to water is high or product is highly porous, it is strongly recommended to dip or pre seal. Pool copings are a good example of this and almost all stones respond well when dip sealed prior to these applications. ProBlock from Aqua Mix (1300 278 264) is a high quality pre sealer.

For a good explanation on the benefits and correct pre sealing procedures, visit: <https://aquamix.com.au/products/sealers/problock-pre-sealer/> ▶

Installation

Ensuring the cobblestone is clean from dirt and dust will result in maximum bond to the bedding. Washing the stone after cutting is highly recommended to avoid any unwanted stains or "paste" drying and sticking to the stone.

It is always recommended to use an appropriate bonding method.

This is an important step within the process. Examples of these are slurry bonding and adhesive bonding.

Another important consideration is weather conditions. Temperatures over 30 degrees celsius may result in loss of moisture and rapid shrinking of the bonding and adhesive layers.

Alternatively, rain can add excessive moisture, causing wetter, weaker bonds. For best laying conditions, follow manufacturers specs for your favoured product(s).

Sealing and Grouting

Sealing is always recommended prior to grouting and it is always best practice to ensure the cobblestone is clean and dry before sealing. Employing a cleaning and sealing specialist is also recommended for superior results. As new products and developments within the industry are continuously evolving, it is these specialists that will be able to provide the best advice.

Sealers Choice Gold from Aqua Mix is a great natural look sealer. For further advice and information of specific sealers please visit www.aquamix.com.au

Grouting is the important final stage in 'locking in' the cobblestone. Thoroughly cleaning the intended grouted joints is highly recommended. Following manufacturers specs and guidelines for correct mixing and application of the grout will ensure the best outcome. Weather considerations should also be taken into account when applying Grout, as well as allowing adequate curing times.

Final sealing should then be carried out after grouting.

Maintenance

Ongoing maintenance will vary from stone to stone. Regular cleaning will reduce the risk and signs of dirt, mould and efflorescence. Stone Deep Clean from Aqua Mix is a non-acid, biodegradable formula that is great for natural stone surfaces. A cleaning professional should only attempt the use of acid based products on stone surfaces.

Product Variation

Colour, shades, texture and naturally occurring characteristics within the stone will all differ from piece to piece. This variation has been carefully accounted for when producing our range. These variations may cause differences from the samples supplied and from batch to batch but are in no way considered defects. Gather Co takes great care in producing quality products that best match the samples provided and advertised.

Please take these naturally occurring differences into account when determining which product is best suited for your chosen project. It is always recommended to blend laid surfaces with all product batches supplied to help manage this natural variation.

Gather Co hopes that the above tips and suggestions help outline some key components that need to be considered. We offer these as added assistance only. Our best advice is to always seek qualified and professional service when using our products.