

Yeomans Slate Wholesalers - Crazy Paving Advice

The following information is intended as a general guide only, if in doubt, please contact your supplier or distributor.

The term crazy paving refers to the crazed appearance of the finished surface, although it could equally apply to the notion held by some that this is a cheap or easy form of paving.

Far too often, it is undertaken as an allegedly simple alternative to more traditional paving or because broken flags are free or cheaper than intact units, yet, from a contractors point of view, it costs more in terms of labour to lay a given area of crazy paving than it does for normal paving.

Well laid crazy paving minimises the amount of mortar or jointing visible at the finished surface.

The mortar is the structural weak point of the pavement, so, the less there is, the better the finished work's chances of survival in the long term.

Most crazy paving is laid using a stone or concrete paving that is an irregular shape and in most cases it is best laid on a cement bed.

If crazy paving is being used to carry vehicles we would normally lay the paving on a 100mm thick bed of concrete with movement joints installed as in a concrete slab.

For patios or other light weight applications, a 50mm thick bedding mix is usually sufficient.

Any make up in level can be done with more bedding material or with a good sub base material.

With stone and slate, there is often a variation in thickness of the pieces that adds yet another task in the laying process as they will need to be individually bedded.

Individual Bedding

Each piece should be tested to make sure it isn't rocking or moving: if there is movement, pack more of the bedding mix

beneath the piece until it is firm.

Individual bedding also requires levels, either by using string lines or straight edge timbers to ensure no hollows or peaks.

Screed Bedding

This method can only be used with materials of a regular thickness.

The bedding is levelled out so that it is at the required level to accommodate the paving pieces.

A 50mm thick piece of slate may need a bed that has been screed to a level that is 35mm below finished pavement level

because the bedding compresses by 15mm.

With this method of laying we find it best to partially compact the bedding material before laying with a couple of passes

with a vibrating compacter along with screeding off to the required level then racking the top to provide some give for bedding in.

Position the pieces with a rubber mallet again checking for level etc.