

CHAPTER 19

Paving



PAVING

There are many ways in which a property owner can improve on the appearance of an estate. Modifications, such as paving outdoor surface areas can increase the value of the property significantly.

To pave a Clay Brick driveway, the following steps are recommended:

Decide on the type of Clay Paver to be used

The choice of paver is largely determined by the building design, as well as the colour, style and finish to be achieved. It is highly recommended to seek the expert advice of a Clay Brick supplier, who will gladly assist in selecting the most suitable brick for the required application.

Decide on a suitable pattern

Clay Pavers are available in an array of earthy colours, textures and natural hues, allowing for creativity in design and layout that naturally compliments the environment.

Some of the most commonly used paving patterns are illustrated below. (See Fig.19.1 and 19.2)

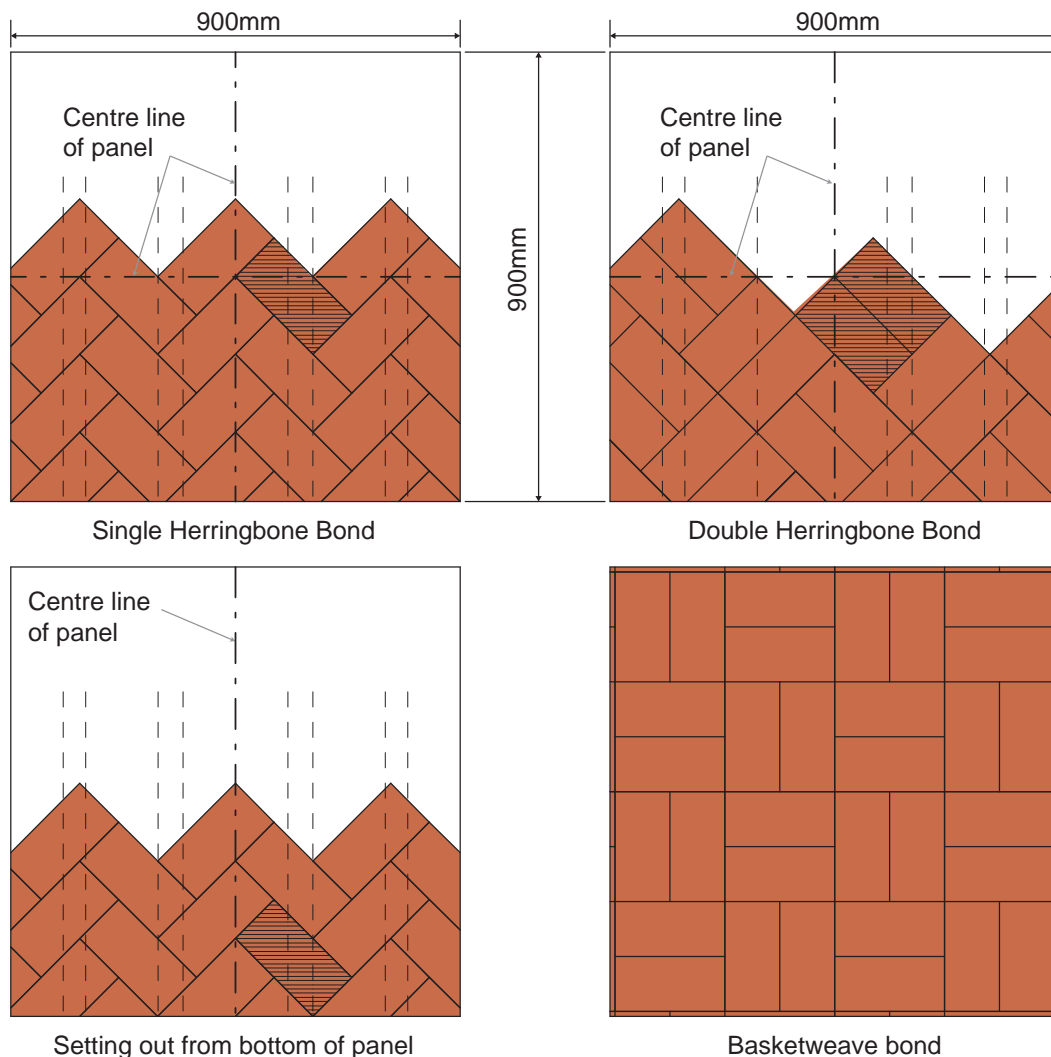
Setting Out

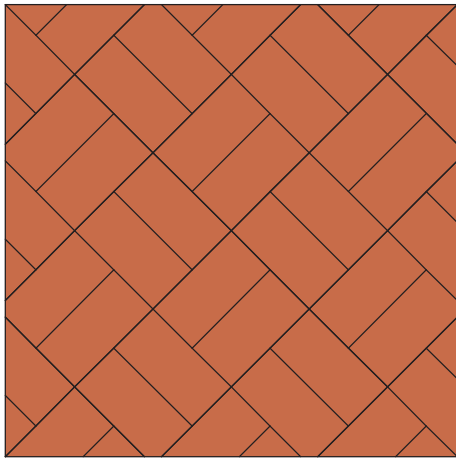
Provision is to be made for openings where flowers, shrubs or trees are to be planted on completion of the paving. It is best to demarcate at the initial planning stage.

Preparation of the surface

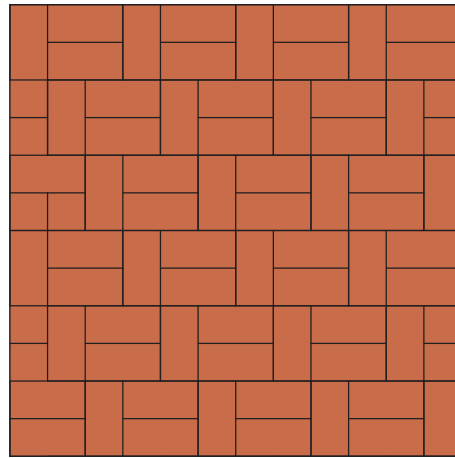
Under all circumstances provision must be made for water drainage. Always slope the surface to be paved away from the house and/or garage.

If the driveway slopes towards the house, direct the water away by raising one side of the paving slightly. This precaution is vital to keep the garage dry, and also water out of the home. If an enclosed courtyard is paved, the water is generally drained in the direction of the entrance gate.

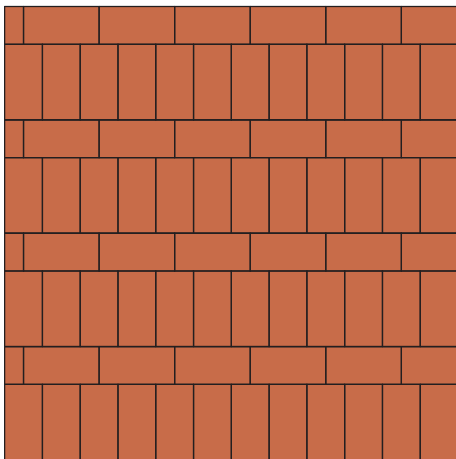




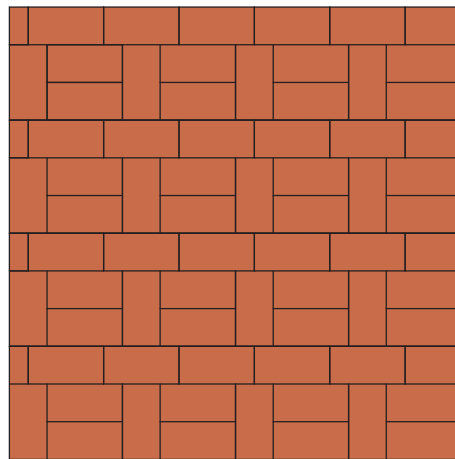
Diagonal Basketweave



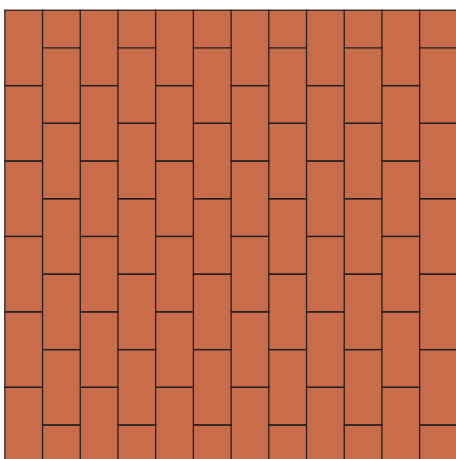
Staggered Basketweave



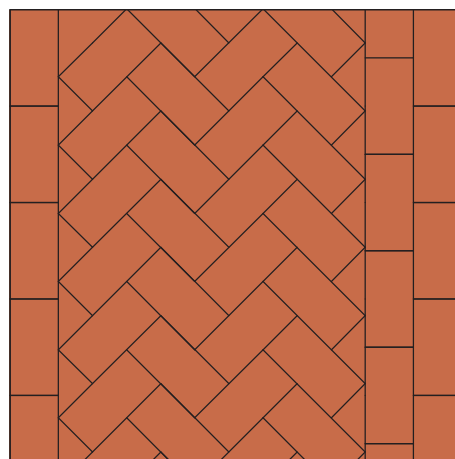
Bordered Grid



Stretcher Basketweave Pattern



Stretcher Bond Pattern



Bordered Herringbone Pattern



The surface to be paved must be loosened by picking. In other words, dig up the whole area to a depth of 70-80 mm. Use a long, straight board to level off the area. When you are satisfied that the area is perfectly level (no hollows or bumps) and that the water will be diverted in the required direction, the entire area must be consolidated.

The consolidation of the soil is best achieved by using a vibrator roller or a plate compactor. These items can be hired on a daily basis from plant hire firms.

The soil compaction is vitally important if problems are to be avoided later. To prevent weeds from growing through the paving it is necessary to spread a patent weed killer, which is obtainable from the garden nursery, across the area to be paved.

Laying of Paving

Follow the soil compaction, by laying the Clay Pavers to the pattern of your choice, on a thin layer, ± 20mm thick, of mine sand which has been levelled over the compacted area.

To make the actual placing of the bricks easier, a line or a prepared metal grid can be used.

The grid consists of reinforcing bars welded together to form the required pattern. Prepare the grid so that the bricks fit easily between the bars. The grid's total size should be approximately one square metre. This grid is placed alongside a line, filled with bricks and lifted and repositioned.

Bricks can be laid with an opening between (joints) which must be filled (grouted) later or abutting touching). Once the entire area has been laid out with bricks, and if the bricks are laid abutting, simply sweep the crevices full between the bricks with a dry mixture of one part cement and four parts sand (concrete or river sand).

If using the metal grid, a cement grout must be prepared to fill the joints. For grouting there is a choice of two methods, in that you can sweep the joints full with a dry or with a wet mortar mix.

Mix four parts sand with one part cement dry and sweep all the joints full.

Next, with a fine spray of water, wet the entire area. At the same time the bricks must be sprayed clean. All the loose cement must be washed off. Use a wet sponge to clean off the upper surface of the completed paving.

The same mix can also be wetted and then swept in.

An important fact to remember is that the cement must be washed off the paving bricks, with a strong water spray, before it has time to dry. This will result in some of the grout between the bricks being washed out. Do not try and avoid this, it is quite normal. Also, do not spray directly onto a joint.

Leave the brickwork for a couple of hours to settle, then wipe the surface with a wet sponge to ensure all the cement stains are removed.



IMPORTANT NOTE:

When preparing the area to be paved, make sure that the top surface of the paving is below the D.P.C. level of buildings adjoining the paving.

NOTES

Lined area for notes