

PARADISE LIMESTONE
BACKYARD RENOVATIONS . PERTH WA

GUIDE 03

The Perth Paving Guide

Choosing, laying and living with paving in our climate

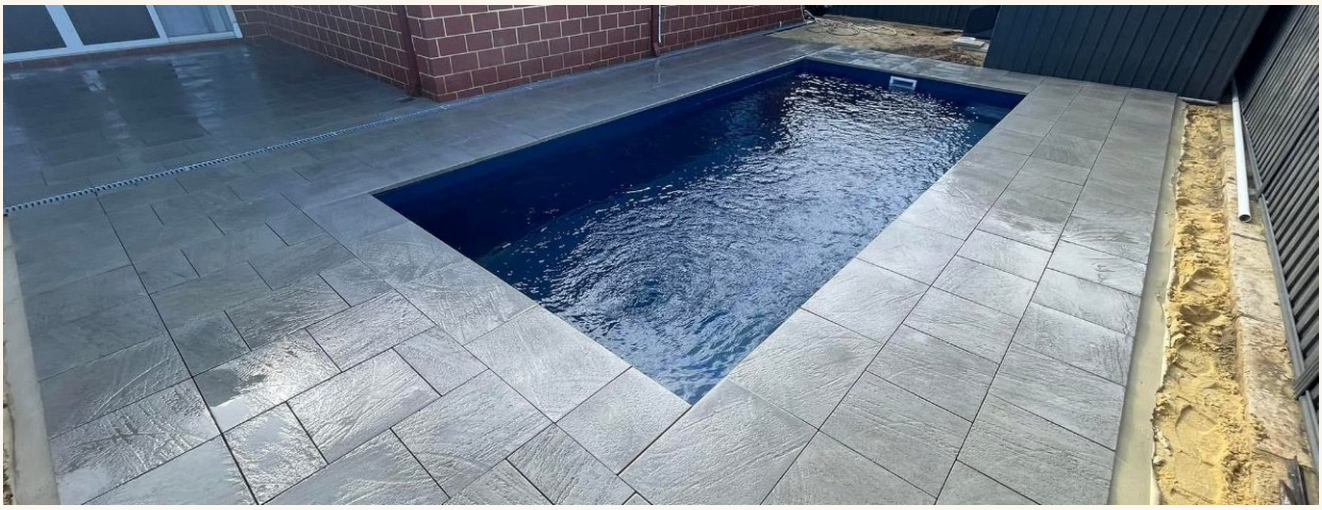
FREE GUIDE

GUIDE 03

Getting paving right

Paving is the part of the backyard you touch every day. It is what you walk on barefoot in February, what the table sits on, and the first thing that shows if the base underneath was rushed. Choosing the material is the fun part, and it matters less than what goes under it.

This guide runs through the materials we lay in Perth, what suits which job, and the base work that decides whether it still looks good in ten years.



Limestone paving around a pool: cool underfoot, slip resistant and quiet against the water.

The materials, side by side

These are the surfaces we lay most often. Every one works in Perth. The differences that matter day to day are heat underfoot, grip when wet, and how much upkeep you are willing to do.



Natural limestone
Coolest underfoot. Soft, marks over time.



Reconstituted concrete
Even colour, huge range, good value.



Travertine
Warm and classic. Seal it, and fill the pits.



Granite
Very hard and dark. Gets hot in full sun.



Bluestone
Even charcoal. Smart, modern, holds heat.



Clay brick
Keeps its colour for decades. Traditional look.



Porcelain
Almost no upkeep. Needs a very flat base.



Liquid limestone
Poured, seamless, cool. Control joints needed.



Exposed aggregate
Tough and grippy. The driveway favourite.

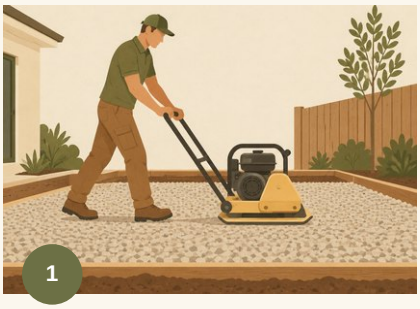
> **The Perth test**
> Whatever you are drawn to, stand a sample in the sun for twenty minutes and put your bare foot on it. Pale, textured surfaces stay walkable in summer. Dark, dense, polished ones do not. Take a sample home before you commit.

Which surface for which job

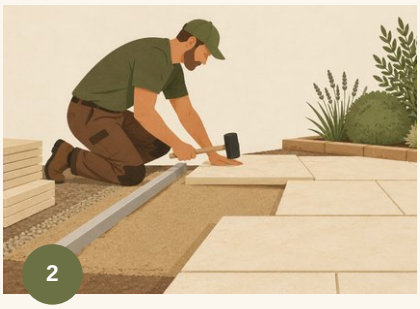
- Alfresco and entertaining. Large format pavers in a pale colour, with as few joints as possible to sweep.
- Pool surround. Cool underfoot and slip resistant first, looks second. Limestone and travertine are the usual picks.
- Paths and side access. Narrow runs where a hard wearing paver and a firm edge matter more than the pattern.
- Driveways. Needs a proper base and a surface rated for vehicles. Exposed aggregate, clay pavers or thicker concrete pavers.

The part that matters most

Almost every paving problem we get called to is a base problem, not a paver problem. Pavers sink, joints open and puddles form because the ground under them was never prepared properly. On sand this matters more than anywhere.



Compacted base
Crushed roadbase laid in layers and compacted, not just raked level.



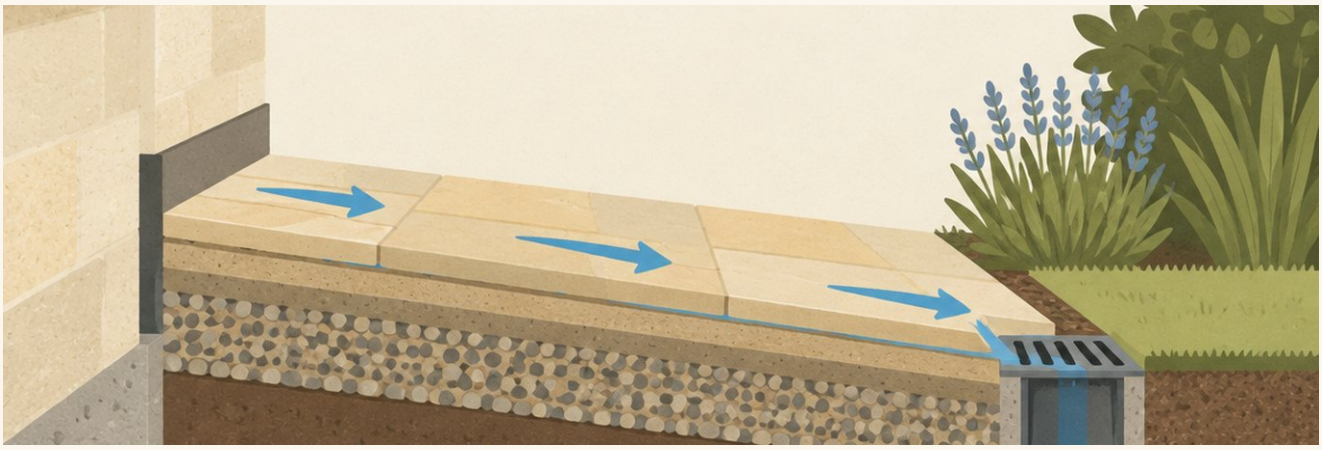
Screed and lay
A true screeded bed, then pavers laid to line with even joints.



Falls and edges
Falls set away from the house, and edge restraints so nothing creeps.

> **Where the money should go**
> If a quote is well under the others, the saving is nearly always in base depth and compaction, because it is the one part you cannot see once the job is done. Ask any paver what base they are allowing and how it will be compacted.

Falls and drainage

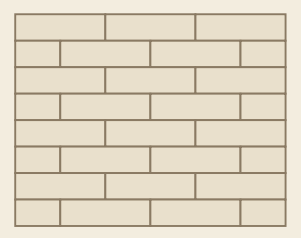


Paving is laid with a gentle fall away from the house so water runs to a garden bed or a drain rather than sitting against the slab.

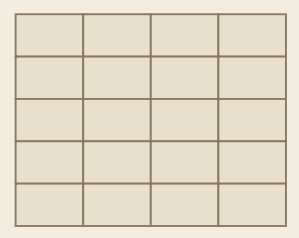
- Water must always run away from the building, never towards it.
- A gentle, even fall does the job. Too much is uncomfortable to walk on and you notice it under furniture.
- Low points need somewhere to go, whether that is a garden bed, a soak well or a drain.
- Edge restraints hold the outside row in place. Without them, paving slowly spreads and the joints open.

Laying patterns

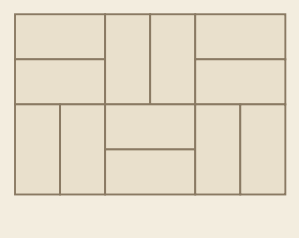
The pattern changes how big the area feels and how much cutting is involved. Running bond and stack bond suit large format pavers and modern homes. Herringbone locks together and is the strongest under vehicles, so it is the one to use on a driveway.



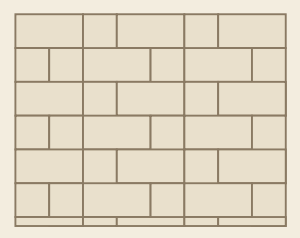
Running bond
Simple, forgiving, least waste



Stack bond
Sharp and modern, needs a true base



Basketweave
Traditional, suits brick pavers



Herringbone
Interlocks, best for driveways

Poured finishes

Poured surfaces have no joints to weed and no pavers to lift. The trade off is that they crack along control joints rather than moving quietly like paving does, and repairs are harder to hide.



Liquid limestone
Cool, seamless, pale. Needs sawn control joints and sealing.



Exposed aggregate
Grippy and very hard wearing. The usual driveway choice.



Pavers instead
Individually liftable, so services and repairs stay simple.

Sealing, efflorescence and care

- Sealing is worth it on travertine, around pools, and anywhere you want stains to sit on top rather than soak in.
- That white haze on new paving is efflorescence. It is salts drying out of the material, it is normal, and it usually weathers off within a year.
- Do not attack it with acid straight away. You can burn the surface and make it worse.
- Sweep and hose. That is most of it. Pressure washing too hard or too close will scar soft stone.
- Keep reticulation off the paving where you can, because sprinkler water carries minerals that stain.

Paving that ties into the rest of the yard

Paving rarely sits on its own. It meets walls, lawn and garden beds, and those joins are what make a yard look finished or unfinished. We set levels so the paving, the turf and the beds all land where they should, and so the mower runs over the edge instead of hitting it.



Paving, turf and a limestone edge meeting cleanly. Getting the levels right at the joins is most of the job.

How we quote

We measure on site, allow for the base the job actually needs, and give you one number with the inclusions written down. If something changes once we open the ground up, you hear about it before the work happens, not on the invoice.



Let's build your paradise

The easiest way to start is to have Aaron look at the space and talk through materials with you on site, where you can see how a sample reads against your house and your walls.

Bring your ideas to the Fremantle showroom by appointment and you can handle the full range before you decide.

Talk to Aaron

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Showroom: 25 William St, Fremantle WA 6160 (by appointment)