

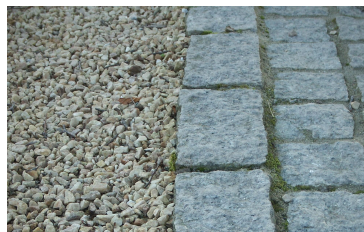


How to Lay Gravel in Decorative Areas



Loose gravel has excellent properties both as a decorative covering or mulch product. When plants are to be planted within the gravel area a reasonable depth of topsoil should remain beneath the gravel to provide nourishment and anchorage for the plants.

Normally excavation is kept to a minimum and the existing topsoil is dug over until it is weed free and free draining. Once the area has been dug-over an edging is installed, if desired, in order to frame the chosen area and hold the gravel in place.



Example of Typical Edging

A permeable geotextile landscape fabric is normally laid out over the entire area to aid in the prevention of weed growth. This can be a tricky operation in breezy conditions and it may be beneficial to weigh down the fabric with bricks or similar, until the gravel has been barrowed in and placed.

Once the landscape fabric is in place the chosen gravel is brought in and spread to an even thickness of approx 50mm with a rake. If desired the gravel can then be compacted with either a roller or vibrating plate compactor.



General Arrangement

Where plants are being used they should be laid out until you are happy with the final positions. Only once you are happy should you scrape the gravel aside and slit the landscape fabric with a knife allowing access to the underlying topsoil. Once the plants are firmly in place carefully rake the gravel around the base of your plants.