

LUXURIES



Perfect Pavers

» For driveways and walkways, nothing matches the rugged handsomeness of paving stones

BY C. J. HUGHES PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANITA CALERO

LIKE A GRANITE COUNTERTOP, a granite pathway—or one made of bluestone, marble, or weathered brick—lends a house, new or old, a distinct air of sophistication. Even concrete, that most utilitarian of materials, takes on a look of Old World elegance when formed into rustic interlocking paving stones.

Sure, individual pavers are more expensive than asphalt or poured concrete, but for as little as \$3 a square foot, they're an affordable way to boost curb appeal. Use a lot to blanket a driveway or patio, or smaller quantities as accent strips or borders. Properly installed in a bed of compacted sand, pavers make a long-lasting, low maintenance surface that no amount of traffic can budge. Turn the page for a look at more options.

1. BRUSHED CONCRETE

Has the look of wire-cut clay brick. 6 by 6 by 2 3/4 in.; \$4 per sq. ft.; unilock.com

2. GOLDEN GRANITE

Hand-split edges lend a rustic appearance. 8 by 4 by 4 in.; \$15 per sq. ft.; rhodes.org

3. BULLNOSE EDGE

For stair treads, pool coping, and capstones. 12 by 6 by 2 3/8 in.; \$2.49 each; willowcreekpavingstones.com

4. TUMBLED CONCRETE

Meant to evoke old European cobblestones. 6 by 6 by 3 in.; \$3.15 per sq. ft.; harwoodlandscaping.com

5. ECO-STONE

Spaces between pavers allow for maximum drainage. 9 by 4 1/4 by 3 1/8 in.; \$2.50 per sq. ft.; unilock.com

6. WEATHERED CONCRETE

Large pavers are better suited for patios and walks than for driveways, where they can crack more easily than smaller stones. 12 by 9 by 2 3/8 in.; \$3.95 per sq. ft.; willowcreekpavingstones.com



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Set in a bed of sand, pavers can move as the ground freezes and thaws. The only maintenance required is to occasionally replenish the joints.

6. PERUVIAN MARBLE

Good for patios, walkways, and outdoor kitchens. 4 by 4 by 1 in.; \$8 per sq. ft.; harwoodlandscaping.com

7. DISTRESSED CONCRETE COBBLESTONE

The surface has been chipped and nicked for that weathered-in-place look. 6 by 6 by 2 3/8 in.; \$3.95 per sq. ft.; willowcreekpaving-stones.com

8. ANTIQUE CHESTNUT GRANITE

Reclaimed from China's Qingdao region. \$24 per sq. ft.; rhodes.org

1. BENGAL BLACK GRANITE

Granite is tough, about three times the strength of concrete. 12 by 12 by 2 in.; \$20 per sq. ft.; rhodes.org

2. TUMBLED BLUESTONE

Pennsylvania stone, tumbled for a soft look. 11 by 5 by 5 in.; \$6 each; harwoodlandscaping.com

3. BELGIAN BLOCK

Despite the name, these hunks of granite are quarried in India. 9 by 5 by 5 in.; \$3.50 each; harwoodlandscaping.com

4. RECLAIMED BRICK

Unlike much salvaged wall brick, this one is hard-fired and strong enough for a driveway. 7 by 3 1/2 by 2 1/4 in.; 30 cents each; reaveswrecking.com

5. WASHED-FINISH CONCRETE

The look of granite, at roughly half the cost. 12 by 6 by 2 3/4 in.; \$5 per sq. ft.; unilock.com

Add a Belgian-block border to your driveway: thisoldhouse.com/shortcuts