# Material Calculator & Spacing Guide

## Build a budget-friendly, zero-cut paver patio under $5 per sq ft.

Plan your exact material quantities and space your pavers perfectly. This guide ensures a flawless, zero-cut layout that lasts decades.



## Project Specifications

**< $5**
Target per sq ft material cost

**4 in**
Excavation depth for the entire footprint

**1 in per 10 ft**
Drainage slope away from your home

**1 in**
Coarse concrete sand leveling base layer

**4 in**
Washed pea gravel gaps between stones

**0**
Cuts needed for this grid layout

*Test Your Walking Stride*

*Before adding filler, walk across the dry-laid concrete squares at your normal pace. The 4-inch gaps should feel effortless to step over without looking down.*

## Zero-Cut Installation Steps

1. **Excavate And Compact Base** Dig 4 inches, slope for drainage, and run a rented steel tamper until road-hard.
2. **Install Hidden Poly Edging** Lock the footprint with hidden edging to keep loose decorative stone from spilling into the grass.
3. **Screed The Leveling Sand** Pour 1 inch of coarse concrete sand and screed perfectly flat over two parallel steel pipes.
4. **Set And Space Pavers** Lay stock utility pavers using a scrap wood block to ensure exact 4-inch gaps in all directions.
5. **Fill With Washed Gravel** Lay permeable weed barrier, pour washed pea gravel, and sweep flush slightly below the concrete edge.

## Paver Quantity Calculator

| Square Feet | 16x16 inch utility pavers | 20x20 inch utility pavers | 24x24 inch utility pavers |
|---|---|---|---|
| 100 | 57 stones | 37 stones | 25 stones |
| 150 | 85 stones | 55 stones | 38 stones |
| 200 | 113 stones | 73 stones | 50 stones |

Assumes a zero-cut layout with 4-inch gravel gaps.

## Choose Your Patio Style

Find your row: **your desired patio mood**

| your desired patio mood | Your pick | Why |
|---|---|---|
| **Desert Modern Oasis** | Warm tan gravel, terracotta planters | Creates a drought-tolerant desert escape. |
| **Coastal Cottage Retreat** | Crushed oyster shells in gaps | Brings a breezy, beachside texture. |
| **Moody Industrial Lounge** | Charcoal stones, black basalt gravel | Sleek contrast that hides dirt beautifully. |
| **Lush Tropical Escape** | White marble chips, lush foliage | Contrasts brightly against oversized gray pavers. |

## Site & Furniture Checks

- ◯ Measure patio footprint to ensure it fits whole pavers plus 4-inch gaps.
- ◯ Verify your outdoor furniture has sled bases or wide block feet.
- ◯ Check that the supply yard drops heavy paver pallets near the site.
- ◯ Use a long aluminum level across stones to verify a flat plane.

## Measurements & Notes

Enjoy your beautiful, budget-friendly new outdoor living space!