

Gravel Pathway Dig & Tonnage Guide

Calculate exact materials and follow the 6-step build order for a rock-solid walkway.

Mapping out your exact footprint prevents costly mid-project shortages. Use this chart to build a firm foundation with a satisfying golden crunch.

● Crucial Pathway Measurements

1 inch

Top layer (skimp for firmness)

3-4 inches

Dense-graded base mix thickness

1 in. proud

Edge sits above final gravel

2% fall

Crown center to shed water

2-inch lifts

Compact base in thin increments

+ 15%

Extra base material for compaction



Wash the Decorative Gravel
Spray the gravel thoroughly with a hose before spreading it to wash away quarry dust and reveal the vibrant honey-gold hues of your chosen rock.

● The 6-Step Build Order

- 1 **Dig the Trench** Excavate turf and topsoil with a sharp half-moon edger based on your native soil profile.
- 2 **Set Steel Edging** Stake rigid borders deeply, overlapping joints and backfilling the exterior to prevent outward pressure.
- 3 **Lay Weed Barrier** Pin commercial-grade woven landscape fabric across the bare dirt to stop aggressive perennial weeds.
- 4 **Add Base Mix** Spread 3/4-inch minus crushed stone, lightly misting with a garden hose so particles slide together.
- 5 **Compact and Crown** Run a vibratory plate compactor slowly, overlapping passes, and rake the centerline slightly higher.
- 6 **Spread Top Gravel** Apply a surprisingly thin skim of angular crushed gravel so it locks firmly against the base.

● Tonnage Chart (Per 10 ft)

Find your row: **Width & Native Soil**

Width & Native Soil	Your pick	Why
2 ft wide, firm soil	0.4t base, 0.1t top	Requires 4 in dig
2 ft wide, soft soil	0.5t base, 0.1t top	Requires 5 in dig
3 ft wide, firm soil	0.6t base, 0.15t top	Requires 4 in dig
3 ft wide, soft soil	0.75t base, 0.15t top	Requires 5 in dig
4 ft wide, firm soil	0.8t base, 0.2t top	Requires 4 in dig
4 ft wide, soft soil	1.0t base, 0.2t top	Requires 5 in dig

● Check Before You Build

- ☐ Measure total center line length with a flexible tape.
- ☐ Check average width every few feet around natural curves.
- ☐ Verify drainage angle with a torpedo level on scrap lumber.
- ☐ Confirm top stone is angular crushed gravel, not smooth rock.

● Project Notes & Measurements

Enjoy the satisfying crunch of your beautiful, rock-solid new garden pathway!