Budget Hardscape Material & Layer Guide

Calculate your layers and materials for a stunning stone and gravel patio.

Master the exact foundation layers hidden beneath the surface. Lay down a professional-grade space that won't sink or shift.



Project Measurements

2-4 in
base depth based on soil drainage

18x18 in
step stones for primary walking surface

4-6 in
stone spacing for comfortable natural stride

2 in
washed pea gravel depth below pavers

3-4 ft
metal spike spacing for steel edging

1/4 in per ft
slope to guarantee proper storm runoff

10%
stone overage for cuts or breakage

Overlap Barrier Seams

Always overlap the seams of your commercial-grade woven landscape fabric over the compacted base. Skipping this makes pulling aggressive grass out of pea gravel a nightmare!

The Hidden Layers Sequence

1. **Crushed Concrete Base** Compact the sub-base for a flat, stable surface that survives changing seasons without heaving.
2. **Woven Weed Barrier** Roll out commercial-grade fabric directly over the base to keep your finished surface pristine.
3. **No-Dig Steel Edging** Secure the sleek border with spikes to withstand heavy foot traffic and lawnmower bumps.
4. **Concrete Step Stones** Lay out pavers to create the primary walking surface, leaving room for gravel filler.
5. **Washed Pea Gravel** Sweep filler into gaps to lock the grid together and prevent dusty residue.

Style Your Hardscape

Find your row: **Home's exterior style**

Home's exterior style	Your pick	Why
Warm Modern Desert	Sand pavers, terracotta gravel	Striking, drought-tolerant oasis
Lush English Cottage	Irregular flagstones, creeping thyme	Romantic, lived-in garden feel
Minimalist Zen Garden	Dark charcoal slate, white rock	Calming, minimalist meditation space
Breezy Coastal Retreat	Crushed oyster shells	Distinct, beachy backyard texture
Edgy Urban Industrial	Oversized slabs, black basalt	Bold, architectural statement

Material & Layout Checks

- ◯ Verify cubic yards of crushed concrete needed for the base.
- ◯ Count exact stones needed and add the overage for cuts.
- ◯ Measure total linear feet required for the steel edging perimeter.
- ◯ Calculate cubic yards of washed pea gravel to fill gaps.
- ◯ Align outer edges of stones perfectly along a taut string.
- ◯ Place metal spikes on corners where structural tension is highest.

Project Notes & Measurements

Enjoy your stunning new patio, knowing the foundation is built to last!