

Weekend DIY Paver Walkway

Calculate your materials and build a lasting stone path.

This complete material checklist and base layer guide helps you build a professional-grade curved path on a budget. Follow this exact sequence to prep the ground and lay stones over a single weekend.

● Key Measurements

1/4 in

Drop per foot of walkway width

4 to 6 in

Compacted crushed gravel sub-base

1 in

Concrete sand leveling layer

10 in

Steel spikes driven every two feet

Prevent Hazy Stones

Use a leaf blower on its lowest idle setting to remove fine polymeric joint sand dust before misting. Leftover dust will permanently stain your new stones.



● Your Weekend Build Sequence

- 1 Excavate and compact** Dedicate Saturday to digging, laying the gravel sub-base, and running a heavy plate compactor.
- 2 Screed the sand** Smooth the concrete sand layer perfectly across the base to prepare for stones.
- 3 Set the stones** Snap a chalk line, lay the border row, and stagger the inner pattern.
- 4 Lock the perimeter** Secure the invisible edge guard to stop mower blades catching on exposed lips.
- 5 Activate the binders** Sweep in polymeric joint sand and mist to create an impenetrable seal.

● Material & Base Checklist

- ☐ Compactable crushed gravel (3/4-inch minus)
- ☐ Coarse concrete sand (not play sand)
- ☐ Concrete or clay field pavers
- ☐ Invisible edge restraints (plastic or metal track)
- ☐ Polymeric joint sand
- ☐ 4-foot level and a taped block
- ☐ Chalk line for straight layout

● Check Before You Build

- Verify the lateral tilt pitches away from your home's foundation.
- Account for the sand layer compressing slightly when calculating final height.
- Outline with a zero-cut border row to eliminate wet saw rentals.
- Ensure edge hardware is low enough for lawn roots to cover.

● Choose Your Pattern

Find your row: **Your DIY goal**

Your DIY goal	Your pick	Why
Easy with excellent lock	Running bond pattern	Handles heavy traffic; low waste
Maximum structural lock	Herringbone	Fussy cuts; 15 to 20% waste
Classic with moderate lock	Basketweave	Medium difficulty; under 5% waste
Simplest layout possible	Stacked Bond	Minimal waste but poor lock

● Project Notes

Enjoy your beautiful new walkway and the satisfaction of building it yourself!