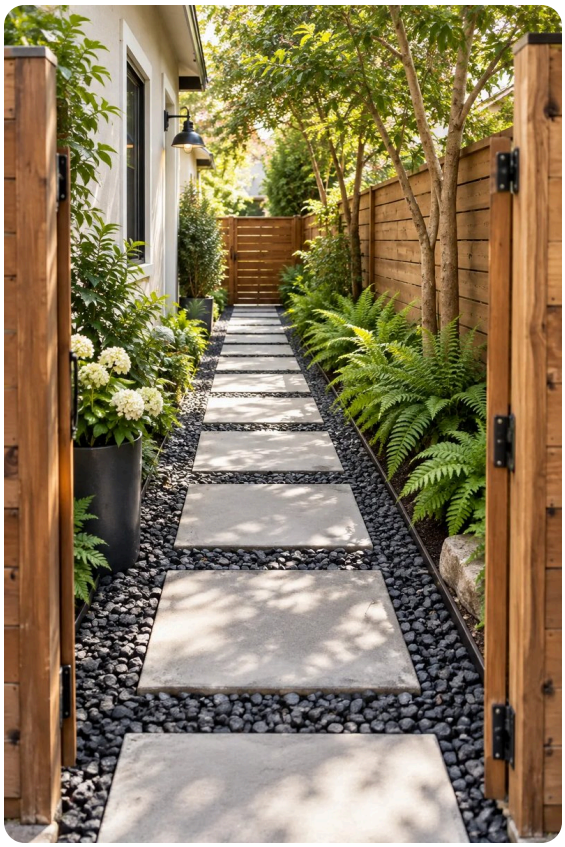
Side Yard Material & Spacing Guide

Your complete checklist and measurements for a mud-free hardscape pathway.

Transform your muddy side yard into a stunning, permanent walkway. Use these materials and measurements to build a solid, well-drained foundation you will love walking on.



Key Measurements

24 in
center spacing for concrete steppers

3 in
excavation depth for new foundation

4 in
steel border strip height

2 in
minimum overlap for edging joints

3/4 in
locking angular stone size

Hidden paver base mat

Laying interlocking synthetic mats over leveled sand provides industrial-strength load distribution. It saves you from digging a deep, messy trench while keeping heavy stones perfectly flat.

Installation Sequence

1. **Map and excavate** Mark exact borders with landscaping paint, then dig down to remove soft organic matter.
2. **Install metal edging** Drive metal strips securely into the trench to contain materials and prevent soil wash.
3. **Lay the foundation** Screed coarse concrete sand, place synthetic mats, and drop heavy pavers straight down.
4. **Fill and tamp** Pour jagged crushed rock and run a heavy hand tamper to lock edges together.

Leveling Sand Depth

Find your row: **Soil Type**

Soil Type	Your pick	Why
Heavy Clay	2 inches	Grade away from house
Loam	1 inch	Standard leveling
Sandy	1 inch	Minimal grading

Complete Material Checklist

- [ ] Large architectural concrete steppers
- [ ] Interlocking synthetic paver base mats
- [ ] Dark gray locking angular stone
- [ ] Commercial-grade steel border strips
- [ ] Coarse concrete leveling sand
- [ ] Shade-hardy ferns (Autumn or Lady)
- [ ] Organic mulch and drip line tubing

Pathway Planning Checks

- ○ Check how water moves through the space during heavy storms.
- ○ Divide total path length by spacing to find stepper quantity.
- ○ Check mature width of shade-hardy ferns for root ball spacing.

Project Notes

Enjoy your beautiful, mud-free walkway and lush new greenery!