

CRAZY PAVING

LAYING IN SAND, GRAVEL (LOOSE MASSES)



INTRODUCTION

Crazy paving consists of tiles with irregular, natural shapes, usually with natural edges (individual tiles may have broken, raw-broken or sawn edges). The surface is natural. Crazy paving has many different applications, both outdoors and indoors. Garden paths, patios, chimneys, walls, floors, fireplaces, roofs and drives are just some of the areas where crazy paving is often used.

The tiles are sorted into different size and thickness ranges. Tiles sorted for regular thickness can also be supplied. There are a number of things to remember before starting work. The size and thickness of the tiles are very important factors with regard to the load to which they will be subjected and also the foundation on which they are to be laid. The tiles are shaped by breaking/guillotining/cutting edges and corners. The degree of breaking and therefore the amount of waste depends on how narrow the joints are to be. The narrower the joints, the more waste.

SELECTING THICKNESS OF CRAZY PAVING TILES

For areas that are to be walked on, thickness of 20-30 mm will do. If the area is intended to support vehicles (normal cars), the thickness should be in the range 30-40 mm as a minimum. The groundwork is essential for a good result (well compacted ground and with a full coverage between the material and ground).



På bildet fra venstre til høyre: skiferkniv, kulehammer, meisel, risser.

TOOLS FOR SHAPING CRAZY PAVING TILES

- Ball face hammer
- Stone shaping knife
- Scoring knife
- Bolster chisel
- Angle-grinder with diamond blade
- Ruler
- Water level
- Chalk

INSTRUCTIONS:

PREPARATION

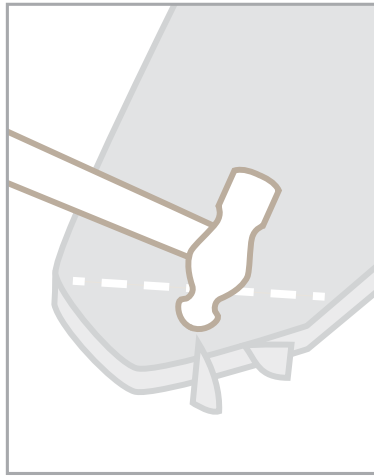
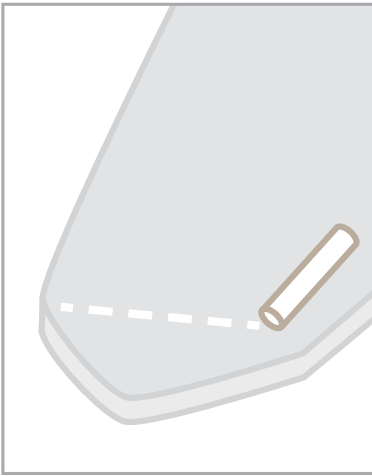
1. First unload the tiles from the pallet and spread them out to get an overall view.
2. Plan the lay-out so that you use the various thicknesses to achieve the required fall. Use the thickest tiles at the lowest points to avoid having to use so much sand to build them up.
3. Identify which tiles fit together best **before** you start shaping them.

SHAPING CRAZY PAVING TILES – APPLIES TO ALL STONE TYPES

Method 1 – Angle grinder

1. An angle grinder with a diamond blade is one way in which to divide up stones.
2. You do not need to cut through the stones full thickness. You only need to cut about half-way through it, and then you can break it.

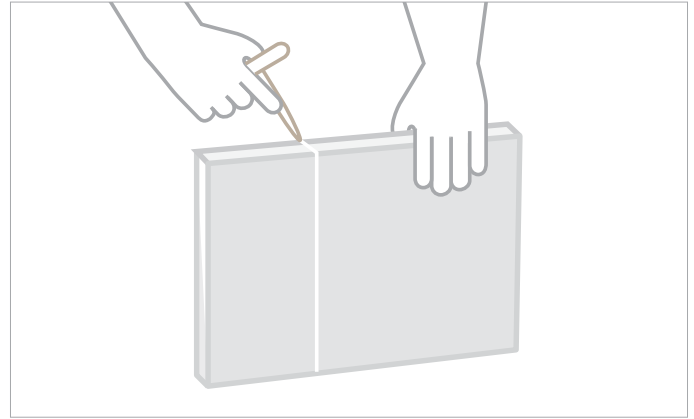
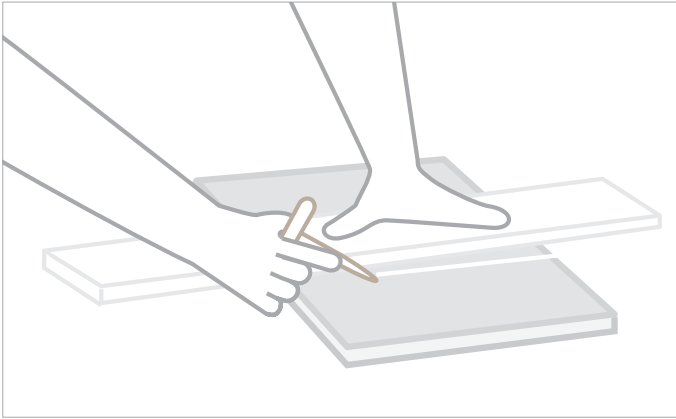
Method 2 – Ball face hammer and chisel/stone shaping knife



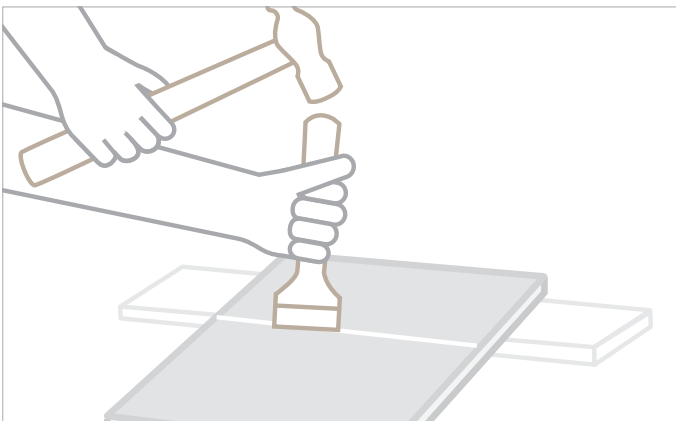
1. Use chalk to mark out the area to be broken off.
2. Make sure the stone is well supported, e.g. on a pile of sand.
3. Use a ball face hammer (use a large one with thicker stone). The thicker the stone is, the rougher treatment it can take.
4. Using the ball part of the hammer, strike the edge to be broken towards the underside of the tile. Do not remove too much at a time, but move in from the edge gradually. The result will be a rather rough edge that gradually slopes inwards.
5. If a smoother edge is required, work on the edge using the other side of the hammer (the butt end).
6. For an even smoother edge, use a stone knife/chisel.

SHAPING CRAZY PAVING TILES – ONLY APPLIES TO OPPDAL QUARTZITE

Oppdal quartzite has the distinctive characteristic that it can be scored and broken in the same way as glass, producing a straight edge (broken) that looks more natural compared with a cut edge.



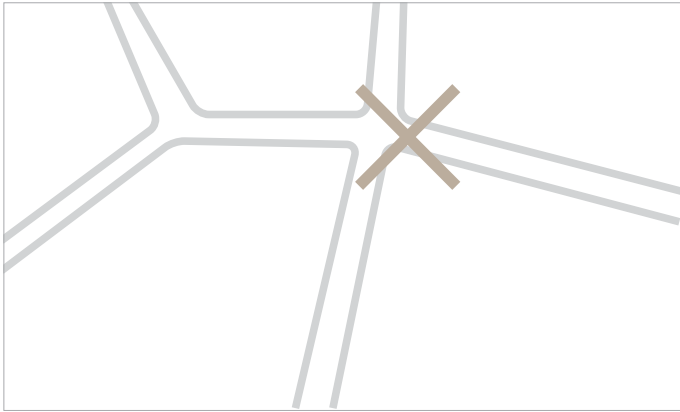
1. Score a line where the stone is to be broken approx. 1-2mm into the surface on the side of the stone that will be facing upwards. Use a scoring knife or similar. The score line should be some way in from the edge, equivalent to twice the thickness of the stone. E.g.: if the stone is 30mm thick, the score line should be at least 60mm in from the edge.
2. Transfer the score line to the underside of the stone. It is important to do this accurately so that the lines end up directly opposite each other. You do not need to make the score line on the underside very deep – **you only need to make a mark.**



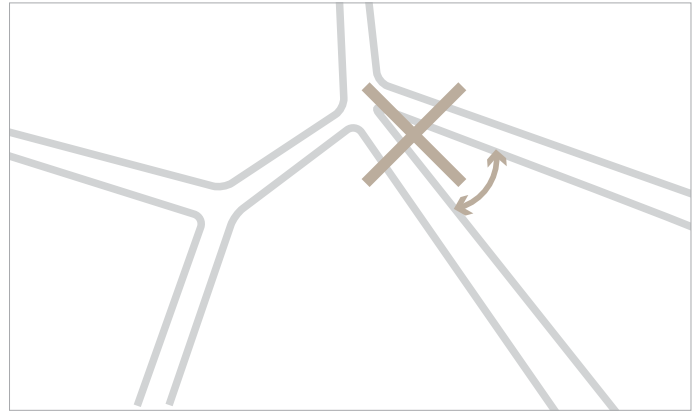
3. Using a hammer and a bolster chisel, strike repeatedly (gently but firmly) along the score line until it breaks off.

LAYING CRAZY PAVING TILES

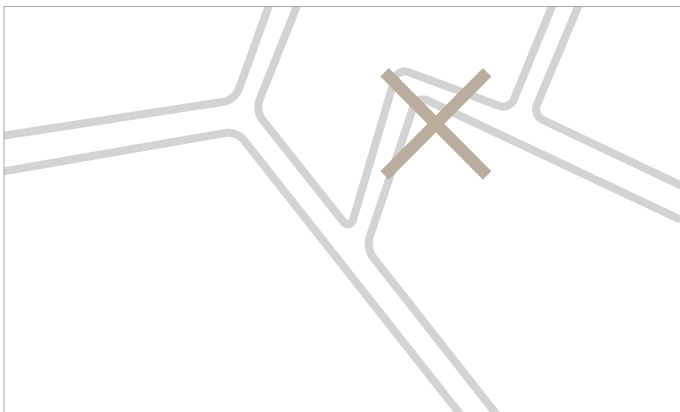
6 good tips to bear in mind for the most natural-looking results where desired:



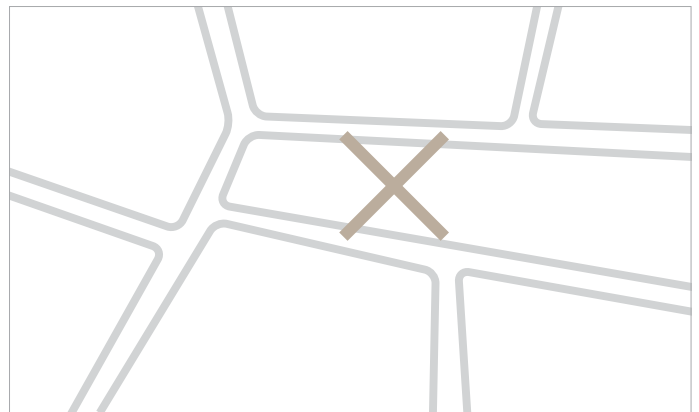
No "intersecting" joins with four tiles meeting to form a cross.



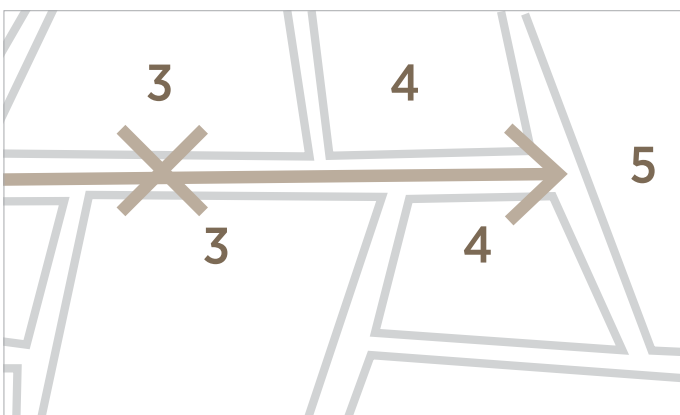
Angles at corners should be greater than 45 degrees.



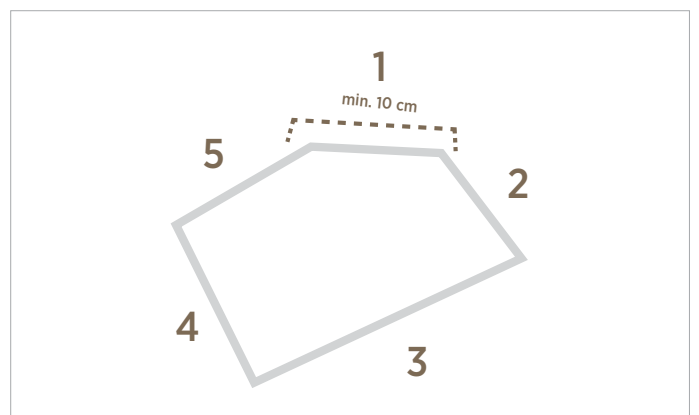
Avoid ressing one tile into another.



Avoid long narrow tiles.



No continious joins (one join should not cross more than three transverse joins.)

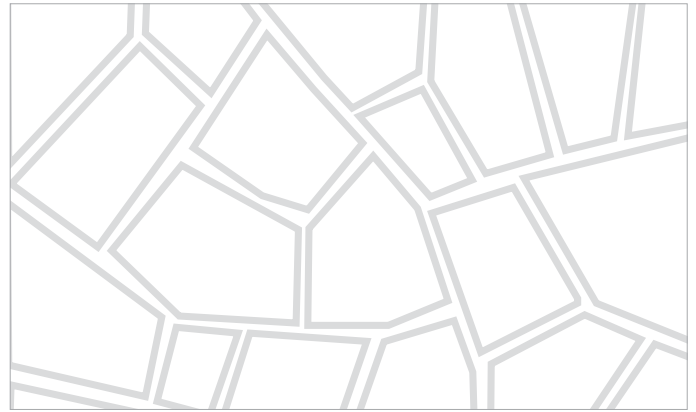


Not too many sides with parallel sides.

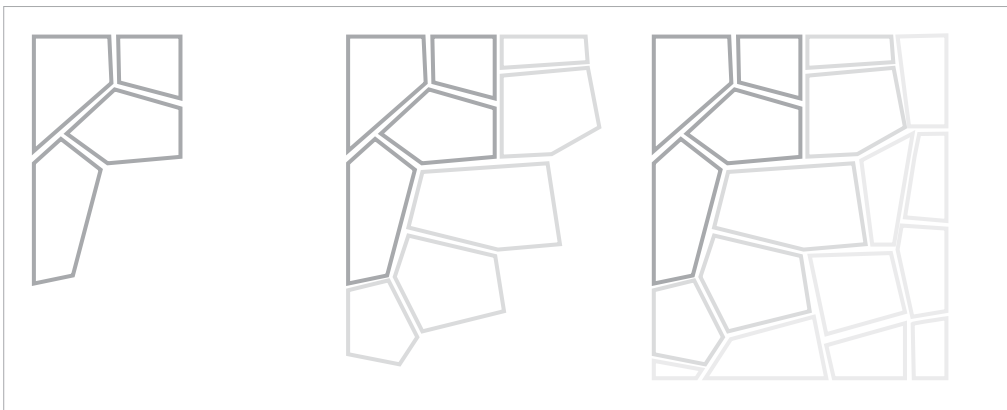
EXAMPLES OF DIFFERENT FINAL RESULTS BASED ON DESIRED DEGREE OF SHAPING.



Roughly shaped for a rustic look.



Worked to produce a rigid look.



LAYING

1. The quality of the final effect is dependent on how much groundwork has been done. Plenty of attention should therefore be given to this stage. The aim is to get the substrate as level and as stable as possible. Put down a layer of sand or crushed stone. This layer should be at least 5 cm thick. If using a woven membrane, lay this underneath the top layer of sand to prevent grass/weeds growing between the stones.
2. Lay or set out all the paving stones. Take the time to identify stones that are already a good fit.
3. Start by laying stones in one corner, moving radially out from the corner. Lay stones that already have a straight edge against a wall or other natural edge. Lay the stones with a fall from the wall of the building of at least one centimetre per metre. Use a level and a long wooden plank to level the sand and to achieve the required fall.
4. Find a stone with the best fit, and lay it so that it is overlapping or next to the “neighbouring stones” that have already been shaped to check that it covers the gap to be filled. Use chalk to mark out those areas that are to be removed. Take the stone away again. Now the hammering starts!
5. It is important that the stone is on a flat and stable base before you start shaping it. Use the round end of the ball face hammer directly against the stone. When shaping stone, it is the weight and speed of the hammer that is important. Do not apply a breaking force straight down, but obliquely and with a swing, as if you were playing tennis or casting a fishing line. In this way you only put stress on the part of the stone that you want to remove. Do not take off more than two-three cm at a time, and do not go any closer than one centimetre to the line, but work in from the edge a bit at a time. When you are about one centimetre from the chalk line, start fine-shaping using the cold chisel/stone-shaping knife. Start on the fine-shaping furthest away, and working back as you shape the stone. Hold the chisel/stone-shaping knife at a slight angle against the surface of the stone. Remember that you are cutting the stone and not crushing it. Use quick, angled blows. You’ll soon get the hang of it.
6. Once you have finished shaping the stone, rock the stone back into place and do any fine shaping that may be required. Lift the stone at one side and adjust the sand beneath it until it no longer rocks and is at the correct height relative to the previously laid stones. Knock it into place using a rubber mallet or similar. Make a final check of height and fall before moving on to the next stone. You decide on the space between the stones (the joint width) depending on the desired effect. However, narrower the gaps require more shaping and therefore result in more wastage.

Good luck! And remember that there is nothing quite as satisfying as enjoying a cup of coffee while sitting out in your garden on stones that you have laid yourself!

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