

# HARDSCAPE BASICS: **PAVERS | WALLS | VERTICALS**

*Where to start when you don't know where to begin.*



**LURVEY**  
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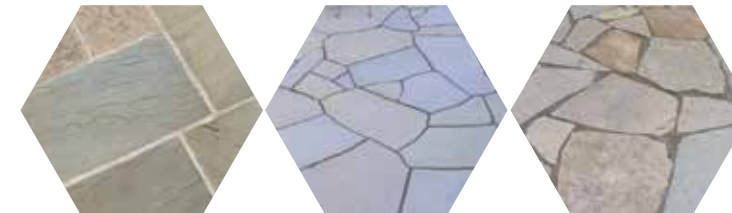


## NATURAL STONE PAVERS

\$10-\$30/SQ. FT.\*



Quarried in the US and other countries in the form of Sandstone (Bluestone), Limestone, Granite and Quartzite



**FORMATS:** Dimensional stone (squares and rectangles), Flagstone (irregular shapes)

**ADVANTAGES:** Authentic/timeless character only achieved with natural stone. Can be customized to fit any application. Often matches the stone features of the home.

**CONSTRAINTS:** Can be more costly than other options. Requires maintenance (sealing and/or joints) every 2-3 years. Some types or applications may need sealing or damp proofing.

**INSTALLATION METHODS:** Dry-laid on compacted gravel and sand base. Dry-laid on a gravel open graded base and bedding course (to prevent moisture damage with more delicate stone). Overlay on a concrete slab with mortar or sand.

*The beauty of natural stone can be a breath-taking addition to your home. Whether it is the simple elegance of dimensional stone pavers or the artful mosaic of irregular flagstone.*

**ABOVE PHOTOS:** Dimensional stone (left photo) with 1/2" mortared joints. Irregular flagstone can be crafted either to have tighter more consistent joints (middle photo) or left unworked for the variation of natural joints (right photo). A tightly jointed project will require a larger labor budget in order to achieve the high level of craftsmanship that comes with trimming each stone to fit.

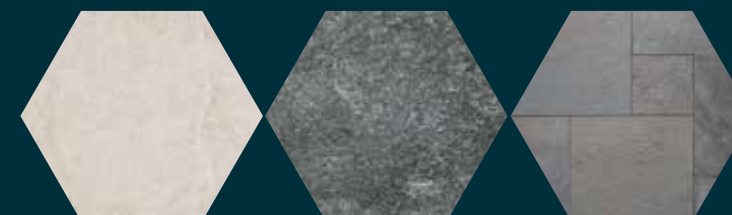
*Lurvey Home & Garden's hardscape specialists are here to find the right place to start when you don't know where to begin.*

Choosing the right materials for your project can be overwhelming but our specialists know the right questions to ask to help narrow down the plethora of options and find the right material for you and your project.



## PORCELAIN TILE

\$10-\$11/SQ. FT.\* (Up to \$20/sq.ft. oversize)



**COMPANIES:** Mirage, Unilock, Dal-Tile Xteriors, Ariostea, Everblue

**FORMATS:** Mainly 24"x 24", some large format rectangles, and select ashlar pattern.

**ADVANTAGES:** Colorfast, minimal maintenance required, stain and frost resistant, and impervious (promoting durability and longevity).

**CONSTRAINTS:** Limited selection of shapes and sizes and accompaniments. No absorption means water on tile must evaporate or runoff.

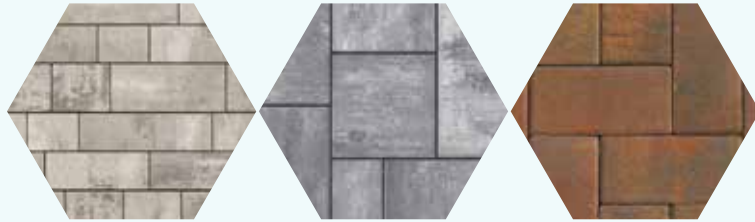
**INSTALLATION METHODS:** Dry-laid on a compacted gravel and sand base. Overlay on a concrete slab with mortar or sand, or placed on a Bison pedestal support system (used primarily on roof tops applications).



# PAVERS

## CONCRETE PAVERS

\$3-\$14/SQ. FT.\*



**COMPANIES:** Unilock, Rochester Concrete Products, County Materials, Belgard, High Format

**FORMATS:** Widest selection of shapes, sizes, and textures – from squares and rectangles to irregular and even faux stone.

**ADVANTAGES:** Design versatility, strength, ease of installation, no spalling, great longevity with face mix options. Priced to fit any budget.

**CONSTRAINTS:** Can fade over time, more so with low end thru-mix technology which makes add-ons and repairs difficult. Weeds and insects can compromise the joints if not sealed and stabilized. Most products will require sealing/joint maintenance every 3-5 years to keep looking their best.

**INSTALLATION METHODS:** Dry-laid on compacted gravel and sand base. Dry-laid as a permeable paver on a permeable gravel base. Overlay on concrete slab with mortar or sand.

## CLAY PAVERS

\$5-\$8/SQ. FT.\* (\$15/sq. ft. for reclaimed)



**COMPANIES:** Whitacre Greer, Belden, Endicott, Reclaimed Street Pavers

**FORMATS:** 4"x 8" (Hollandstone), 3"x 9", 4"x 12", 8"x 8"

**ADVANTAGES:** Colorfast, durable, economical, and sustainable. Some are pre-sealed at the factory.

**CONSTRAINTS:** Minimal maintenance (sealing not required). Installation costs may be higher with some types due to them having a wider dimensional tolerance.

**INSTALLATION METHODS:** Dry-laid on compacted gravel and sand base. Dry-laid as a permeable paver on a permeable gravel base. Overlay on concrete slab with mortar or sand.

## 5 PAVER CONSIDERATIONS

Choosing the right paver for your project can be an exciting venture. Here are five main considerations to think about when choosing a paver to help simplify the task.

### MATERIALS (BUDGET AND APPEARANCE)

The authentic feel and character of natural stone is unbeatable for many, with great elegance and durability, and the planet friendly lowest embodied energy of any material. Clay products are a durable and budget friendly option for classic or contemporary styled homes. Concrete pavers have the greatest design versatility. Your budget will determine the length of performance from good, to better, to best; based on what you decide to invest in your space.

### STYLES AND LAYING PATTERNS

Pavers come in a plethora of styles, shapes, sizes, and surface textures. Each of these will create completely different looks. A key consideration is whether the patio or walk will complement the home and be a seamless extension of interior living spaces, or whether it is intended to be more of a stand-alone statement. Some homes call for simply styled landscape, and others will benefit from a more complex and intricate design that organizes and stylizes the space effectively. Inlays, borders and accents can be achieved with any of these pavers.

### DURABILITY AND EASE OF MAINTENANCE

For many, an easily cleanable surface that is resistant to staining and etching from food and beverage spills, household chemicals, and de-icers rank as top priority. Some concrete pavers and clay pavers come pre-sealed, while

most will require sealing after 90 days and again in a few years. Keep in mind with concrete pavers there are tiers of quality that are discussed more in the product catalogs.

### PAVER SIZE

Don't limit yourself to small pavers to fit small spaces, or large pavers to fit large spaces. The size of the pavers you choose will create a different look: small pavers create textural interest and visually make a space feel cozier, while large format pavers will make a space feel more spacious and less busy (especially when you use a jointing product that's a close color match).

### COLORS

While light colors make spaces feel larger and dark colors make spaces feel smaller, complementing the colors of the home and integrating the patio into the landscape are more important. A great starting point is to consider whether cool colors or warm colors would complement the house best, or in some situations a contrasting color palette from the house may be more appealing. Remember, light colors stay cool and dark colors get hot to the touch in summer.

*There are three additional considerations that are not discussed here. These are availability, eco-friendliness, and product warranty. Consult with a Lurvey Hardscape Specialist or refer to the product catalogs available to you for more information.*



\* Lurvey Home and Garden Pricing

**With Lurvey's FREE Loyalty Club membership you get:** Volume Discount Program: 5% off a \$1,000 purchase & 10% off a \$2,000+ purchase, Earned Points, and More. Please ask about the Loyalty Club at the Service Counter.



## PAVER TERMS

### STOOP

DOOR THRESHOLD

FIELD / INFILL

ACCENT (DOUBLE SAILOR)

RISER

TREAD



### PATIO

FIELD/ INFILL

BORDER (DOUBLE SOLDIER)

ACCENT 1 (SAILOR)

ACCENT 2 (SAILOR)



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Help with selection, product brochures, and the Hardscape Pricing Guide are available at the Stone Desk of Lurvey Home and Garden. For more information on products and installation methods, please refer to the websites of the companies listed in this brochure as well as trusted web resources such as Natural Stone Institute and Interlocking Concrete Paver Institute.



## TYPES OF WALLS

**GARDEN WALLS** are mostly decorative and intended for visual effect. They might be used to create slightly elevated garden beds, dividers, tree wells, fire pits, or other structures. They are considered more ornamental than structural and depending on application range from 12" to 24" in height.

**SEAT WALLS** provide seating areas without taking up valuable living space. They are freestanding, with both sides visible. Seat walls may have pillars connected to them at one or both ends, and they may be connected to other structures as well, such as fireplaces. Seat walls are 18-24" in finished height, which includes coping.

**RETAINING WALLS** do just that – retain. They are meant to hold in soil, prevent erosion, or correct the slope and grade of the ground. More than just functional, they can provide aesthetic appeal and create additional usable outdoor space by leveling sloped areas. Anytime a wall needs to be taller than 30" or if it must support a structure like a patio or deck, then it should be designed as a structural retaining wall.

Because retaining walls can fail for many reasons, it is important to not cut corners. An appropriately designed and properly constructed wall will maintain its beauty and integrity for years to come, making for a worthwhile investment. Please consult our hardscape team for qualified Contractor, Engineer, or Landscape Architect referrals if a considerable grade change is present.

## WALL MATERIALS

**INTERLOCKING CONCRETE** - An interlocking concrete block wall offers versatility and strength. Some products are intended for garden or seat wall applications, while others are appropriate for medium-duty retaining walls. There are also separate options for heavy-duty applications.

**CUT DRY WALL** – The most popular form of natural stone for walls is rectangular shaped Cut Dry Wall. This is an easy to work with material that can be dry-laid or mortar set.

**VENEER STONE** – Available in thin veneer (1-1/4" thick) and full veneer (3-5" thick). Used for cladding structural walls, fireplaces, and outdoor kitchens.

**RANDOM WALL STONE AND FIELDSTONE** – Stone varies in size, shape, and thickness. They can be used for dry-stacked and mortared walls.

**WOOD TIES** - Wood timber walls are an easy and cost-effective method of stabilizing a slope. Spikes, timber screws, or rebar are recommended to hold the timbers together.

**BOULDERS/OUTCROPPING** - Granite boulders and outcroppings come in many sizes, with an irregular shape, and offer an informal look. In addition to their use as wall materials, they may also be used in random groupings, for areas where a true wall is not required.

**GABION CAGES** - Gabion walls consist of a cage constructed of wire mesh filled with rock or boulders, which requires no special masonry or skilled labor. This wall type is perfect for stream embankments where water flowing through the wall would make most applications fail. Gabion cages are an eco-friendly option and work well with contemporary or minimalist designs.



## Need help viewing and selecting?

We recommend making a complimentary 30 minute appointment with a Product Specialist. Select Lurvey Connect Hardscape from appointment options.



**Book Now!**





## CONCRETE WALL STONE



**WALL TYPES:** Garden walls, seat walls, medium and heavy-duty retaining walls

**FORMAT:** Mostly rectangular concrete blocks 4-8" in height

**ADVANTAGES:** Strength, durability, ease of installation, design versatility. There are many options for size, color, and texture, including faux weathered stone or wood look wet cast options. Low-maintenance, very cost effective.

**CONSTRAINTS:** Projects taller than 30" are usually not DIY, and usually require a Landscape Architect or Engineer, or capable contractor to design.



## CAPS | COPING | STEPS



**WALL TYPES:** Creates finished look on pillars, garden, retaining, and seat walls. Forms the treads of steps and stoops.

**FORMAT:** 2-3" thick coping/treads, 2-3" thick pillar caps, 5-7" steps

**CONSTRAINTS:** Step thickness/height is limited and can be heavy, requiring proper equipment for installation.



## CUT DRY WALL

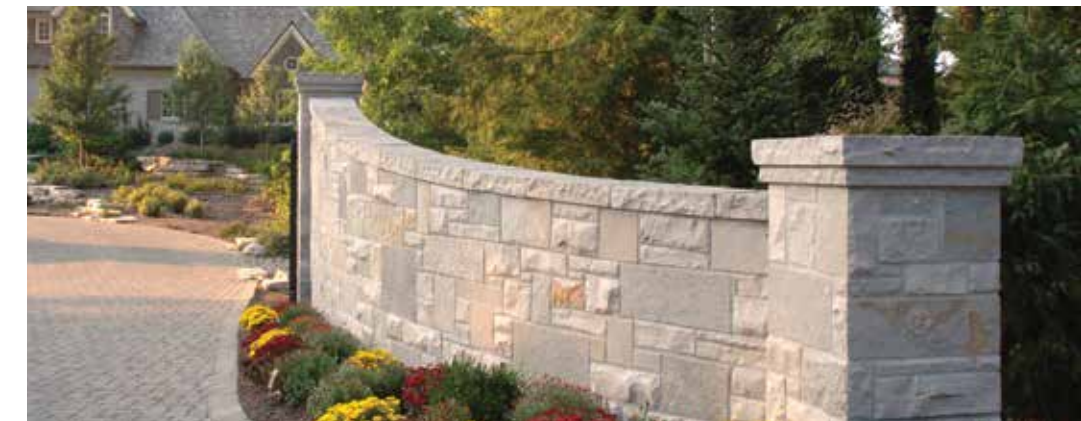


**WALL TYPES:** Dry-laid or mortared garden, seat, and retaining walls

**ADVANTAGES:** Many are locally sourced and are relatively un-processed. A product of nature making it authentic and timeless in the landscape. Can be used to create curved or straight walls.

**CONSTRAINTS:** Usually requires cutting, can fail when constructed without a batter or proper wall components.

## ARCHITECTURAL VENEER STONE



**WALL TYPES:** Mortared retaining and seat walls, pillars, outdoor kitchens, and fireplaces.

**FORMAT:** Thin veneer (1-1/4" depth) and full veneer (3-5" depth), requires mortar for the joints. Shape formats include round, ashlar, ledgerstone, square & rectangular, and mosaic.

**ADVANTAGES:** Authentic, timeless character only achieved with natural stone. Can be customized to fit any application. Possible uses are home as well as landscape walls and vertical features.

**CONSTRAINTS:** Can be more costly to install, and a mason is usually required to properly install veneer stone.



## 3 WALL / VERTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

When it comes to retaining walls, you no longer have to choose between function and aesthetics. Here are three considerations when choosing a retaining wall...

### MATERIALS (BUDGET AND APPEARANCE)

Consider the purpose of the retaining wall, along with your style and budget, when deciding the best material to use. Stone walls are a novel way to unify the landscaping with any stone architectural features of the home, displaying an enduring character and lasting quality. Stone veneer walls are a solid choice for traditional homes but will require special support and drainage considerations. Concrete walls have come a long way to offer unparalleled strength and boast a wide variety of shapes, styles, and color options. Timber walls are ideal for rustic-style homes, blend naturally into a landscape, and are the most budget-friendly.

### STRUCTURAL SOUNDNESS

It is highly possible that gravity alone will not be enough to support your wall. As a result, you will have to make use of some reinforcement and drainage methods to support the wall and ensure its longevity. Make sure to evaluate

wall materials like superheroes. What special feature do they possess related to how they function that gives them strength when constructed? For instance, concrete wall stones fit together like puzzle pieces for added strength. Ultimately, the wall type and features need to coincide with the design considerations of wall height, the footprint shape and size, and setback angles to achieve lasting integrity.

### DUAL PURPOSE

Consider creating steps to access the area above the wall and use the wall to expand the outdoor living space. You can also enhance the function and character of your retaining wall by incorporating pillars, an outdoor fire pit, or a water feature into the design. Incorporating landscape lighting into the wall and steps encourages you to enjoy your landscape into the evening by providing a warm atmosphere while adding safety.

## OUTCROPPING | BOULDERS



**WALL TYPES:** Boulder retaining walls, Outcropping for random groupings. May also be used as steps.

**FORMAT:** Boulders – roundish. Outcropping varies from rectangular to irregular, with varying thicknesses.

**ADVANTAGES:** The most simple and natural solution to grade change, cost effective.

**CONSTRAINTS:** Difficult to control water flow and sediment washing, possibly causing erosion. Weight of outcropping and boulder requires using the proper equipment for installation.



## WALL COMPONENTS

**BASE:** All wall types require a base layer below the grade to stabilize the wall. Dry laid natural stone walls and interlocking concrete walls have a compacted gravel base, along with at least one-half course of wall material below grade, depending on the height of the wall. Natural stone mortared walls require poured concrete slabs with piers below the frost line.

**DRAINAGE:** When used with retaining walls, a gravel drainage layer with perforated drainage pipe helps move water away from the wall. These components relieve water pressure on the wall and help prevent it from failing.

**LANDSCAPE FABRIC:** Fabric lining the interior side of retaining walls helps to prevent soil from leaching through wall crevices and seams.

**STRUCTURAL SUPPORT:** Depending on the wall system and application, additional components may be used such as concrete footings with rebar or geogrid fabric to reinforce the soil or gravel base layer.

**COPING AND TREADS:** Used with most wall types, coping adds a finished look and an added character to seat walls. Treads provide the surface for steps and stoops. Coping and tread fronts (faces) can be saw cut, smooth, rounded (bull-nosed), or rock-faced (chiseled to create a more natural looking surface).

**LIGHTING:** Lights can be inconspicuously integrated into your wall project for both ambiance and safety.

**STEPS:** Retaining walls make a natural framework in which to integrate steps or a stoop. As with a wall, a proper base is required to keep the steps from sinking over time and there are several construction methods that can achieve stability.

**PILLARS:** Pillars can add an additional design element to your project. Pillars are a suitable place for displaying potted seasonal displays or they can feature the perfect pair of light fixtures to compliment your house facade and architecture.

## WALL / VERTICAL TERMS

OUTDOOR KITCHEN

PILLAR CAP

PILLAR

COPING

FIRE FEATURE

SEAT WALL



## FIRE FEATURES



If you love spending time outdoors even in the cooler months, there is no better way to relax than in front of a roaring fire. There are many great fire feature options that can turn a ho-hum evening into a fun, warm, and entertaining one.

**KITS/PREFAB** - Outdoor fireplace kits come in a range of design styles and types; from wood-burning to gas or propane burning. Kits come in a selection of sizes and options and are typically constructed with the same concrete block offerings used for walls. Alternatively, the Unilock Ucara modular system has an aluminum framing solution that can be easily finished with concrete fascia panels.

Fireplace kits and components usually require contractor installation. After placement of the base on the proper footing, fireplace structures may require lining the interior with firebrick, and cladding such as natural stone veneer. Fireplace Kits are engineered to have proper air flow through the height and opening size of the flu. It should also be installed to meet the local building code and may even require modification in some instances. Finally, kits usually have options to include the addition of a hearth seat, firewood storage boxes, or a mantle.

**CUSTOM DESIGNS** - Custom made firepits and fireplaces offer the greatest design versatility, allowing them to

be cohesively incorporated into any backyard landscape. It is the costliest option in terms of budget due to the skilled labor required, and customizable material options.

In many cases the traditional fireplace structure is created using concrete cinder blocks or a prefabricated concrete shell and is used as a starting point. The exterior can be clad with stone veneer.

The result is a one-of-a-kind masterpiece that serves as a conversation piece as well as a functional element that reflects and enhances the character of your home, whether it be modern, rustic, or traditional.

## OUTDOOR KITCHENS



Kitchens, like fireplace kits, are easy to dream up and can be purchased as prebuilt modules or assembled piece by piece on site. Popular components include grills, smokers, pizza ovens, firewood storage boxes, and refrigerators. Anything is possible, including the kitchen sink!

Custom kitchens may be the best option for achieving perfect integration with the rest of your design. Even a modest built-in outdoor kitchen can add versatility and function to your outdoor space! It can simplify entertaining, provide more storage and food preparation space, and give you the opportunity to mingle with your guests. Your outdoor kitchen may even be larger than your indoor kitchen and can include a pergola or roof so that you can utilize it in inclement weather.

Having a tailor-made kitchen will result in a longer construction process and will require additional budget considerations. It will also necessitate a capable contractor specializing in hardscape or masonry work.





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