



# Laying Wilsonstone Pavers

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## General instructions

Wilsonstone is a man-made sandstone product and although it is stronger and less porous than natural stone, it still requires that extra care be taken when being laid.

It is recommended that the following basic necessities be undertaken when laying our products:

- Paving contractors and associated tradesmen to wear light colored soled shoes – absolutely no black or dark soled shoes.
- Keep pets and other tradesmen from treading dirt and mud over the finish.
- Setup brick saw away from laid pavers and wash all slurry off with fresh water immediately after any paver / bullnose is cut.
- Cover all finished work with clean sand or plastic until all tradesmen have completed their jobs and left site.

*There are two basic methods of laying Wilsonstone products:*

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1. Over a flexible base such as a compacted road base

Or

2. Over a rigid base such as a new concrete slab or a sound existing concrete slab or paved area.

Because of the large dimensions of Wilsonstone bullnose sections and other pool coping pieces it is important that a very flexible adhesive be used when laying on a rigid base to allow for differential movement. Under no circumstances should Wilsonstone bullnose be laid on a wet bed. (Refer to laying bullnose onto rigid substrate).

**Phone:** 1300 889 753

**Mobile:** 0412 457 552

**Fax:** 1300 797 726

**Email:** [info@wilsonstone.com.au](mailto:info@wilsonstone.com.au)

**Address:**

Unit 33 /54 Clyde St Hamilton North  
NSW 2292

**ABN:** 79 125 485 752.

Once the particular method of laying has been determined refer to the relevant recommended procedure on pages 4 to 8.

No matter which method of laying you may choose, there are some requirements and recommendations common to all methods of laying.

### Drainage

It is extremely important to provide adequate fall and drainage so that rain or washing water can get away from the underside of the laid pavers. A minimum fall of 1 in 100 with adequate drainage at the lowest point to remove water to prevent back up of water under the Wilsonstone pavers is required. The fall must be provided by the foundation and the pavers laid parallel to the foundation. The required minimum fall of 1:100 must not be created by simply tapering any sand or mortar base over a foundation of inadequate fall.

### Finishing work

It is recommended that once laid, all paving be covered with a layer of clean damp sand or plastic to protect the surface from staining and damage from other on-site trades.

Keep foot traffic off the paving for two or more days.

### Special cleaning

The appearance of Wilsonstone products can be enhanced by the process of acid washing described below. This process reveals the siliceous raw materials specially chosen to give Wilsonstone products the "sparkle" normally seen in sandstone materials. The best all round cleaning method in this case is an acid wash, 1:10 hydrochloric acid (commercial grade) and water. The paving should be thoroughly soaked first (this will prevent the acid soaking too deeply into the paver).

The acid wash should then be applied to the desired area worked in with a stiff brush until foaming ceases. Be sure to thoroughly remove or dilute the acid (spray with hose) as soon as you have finished

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scrubbing. Do not allow the pavers to dry whilst the solution is still on the surface. Remember not to leave the bucket of solution in one place on the paving as this may cause a circular mark.

Extreme care should be taken when handling hydrochloric acid. Be sure to follow safety instructions carefully.

## Sealing and protecting

Wilsonstone recommends acid washing and subsequent sealing of the surface of the pavers as soon as possible after have been laid.

Some products penetrate into the surface allowing a “breathable” surface and produce little change to the appearance of the paver/bullnose.

Excellent results have been obtained using “stain proof” applied by applicators licensed by the manufacturer Dry Treat Pty Ltd.

Some products actually form a clear lacquer-like over the surface thus altering slightly the colour and appearance of the surface.

When purchasing a sealer please indicate your preference for either a penetrating sealer (almost no change in surface appearance) or a surface sealer (some change in colour and appearance of the surface).

The manufacturer of Wilsonstone products cannot be responsible for the performance of any sealer you may choose to use.

## General cleaning and maintenance

Wilsonstone paving has been specially designed not to need a high level of maintenance in order to keep it looking it's best. In fact, if left on its own it will gradually take on a pleasing aged and mature look. The permeability of Wilsonstone to water is extremely low, thus ensuring that, mould and mildew growth is kept to a minimum. Staining is also reduced. Having said this, once every six months or so you may desire to give your paving a rejuvenating cleaning treatment. This is best done using a strong bleach or pool chlorine, and water mix applied with a stiff bristled brush or broom. Be generous with the mix and work it through the entire paving area. It is recommended the paving be wet before the bleach is

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applied. Leave the paving wet until it begins to dry naturally (one hour or so), then blast off any leftover dirt or grit with a hose.

### *Alternative Laying Methods*

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## **A. Laying Wilsonstone products over a flexible base**

### **Foundation**

Any paving job is only as good as the foundation upon which it is laid. Where road base is to be used (depth of 100mm minimum) it must be properly machine compacted.

The foundation must not be subject to subsidence or movement.

For laying Wilsonstone products over a compacted road base

Over the compacted road base a further base layer is needed to ensure optimum placement.

The most economical way recommended, is a sand/cement screed (mix ratio 8:1 sand: cement ... semi dry consistency – no water added) which must be placed to ensure that levels are accurate and provide for adequate drainage. Sand must also be washed well-graded river sand.

You must also ensure concrete bonding around the pavers has adequate drainage holes to prevent backing up of water that will cause staining of pavers.

### **Laying the pavers**

Always plan the layout appropriately before you begin paving the area. Pavers should be gently tapped into place with a white rubber mallet. Never use a mechanical “whacker” on Wilsonstone pavers.

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Tips: Damp pavers will be easier to cut and keep clean whilst laying.  
Ensure slurry from cutting is immediately washed off with clean water.  
Do not allow it to dry as it will be very difficult to remove later.  
Light coloured soled shoes should be worn whilst laying pavers.

## Close butt joints

Close butt joints are recommended where Wilsonstone products are applied over a flexible base.

Clean, salt free sand is then swept into the joints. Sand filled butt joints wider than 2-3 mm can lead to “wicking” of water by capillary action from the sub-base leading to “efflorescence staining” of the perimeter of the paver especially where inadequate fall in the sub-grade exists. An alternative to dry sand is the use of interlock as supplied by Amber Pty Ltd. This is to be used in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

## B. Laying Wilsonstone pavers onto rigid base

this specification must be read in conjunction with the Australian standards AS 3958.1 “guide for the installation of ceramic tiles, Part 1”.

## Drainage

It is extremely important to provide adequate fall and drainage so that rain or washing water can get away from the base of the laid pavers. A minimum fall of 1 in 100 with adequate drainage at the lowest point to remove water to prevent backup of water under the Wilsonstone pavers is required.

There are two methods which can be used for laying Wilsonstone pavers over a rigid base:

- a. using mortar bed – this method is more expensive but it will provide higher stability over a long period of time and is also better for improving drainage of a paved area. The mortar should be (4:1) sand, cement mix, mixed to a plastic consistency, and laid and screeded to a minimum fall of 1 in 100. When using this method it is important when placing the pavers onto the fresh mortar surface to protect them against cement smears on the trafficked surface of the paving. For joining and recommended products see below.
- b. Using an adhesive – the substrate must have a minimum fall of 1 to 100 and be firm, dry, sound and smooth, being free of all contaminants including grease oil, wax, curing compounds, paint, plaster droppings and any other contaminant that may interfere with the

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bonding of the adhesive onto the substrate. The concert surface must be left with a wood float finish, and be cured for at least 28 days prior to the laying of the Wilsonstone sections. A screed must be left with a wood float finish and be cured for at least 7 days prior to the application of the adhesive. Smooth or steel trowel finished concrete must be prepared in accordance with the manufacturer instructions.

## Adhesive

**DAVCO SE7** mixed with **DAVCODAVELASTICS** (diluted 1:1 with clean water) in accordance with the manufacturer instructions. Allow a minimum of 24 hours before grouting the joints.

## Pointed joints

Grouted pointed joints are recommended when laying Wilsonstone pavers onto a rigid base.

## Grouting of pointed joints

Once the adhesive has dried (at least 24 hrs) all joints be grouted using **Davco Sanitized Colorgrout** for joints less than 6mm in width, and **Slate & Quarry Grout** for joints between 6 – 12mm. the **DAVECO** grout must be mixed in accordance with the manufacturers printed instructions. During hot or windy conditions or where moisture can be drawn out quickly, it is imperative that the grout is not allowed to dry too quickly. To prevent this, the joints should be dampened down prior to the application of the grout and the surface of the grout should have a mist of water sprayed over it during curing. This will ensure proper hydration of the grout. Wipe any smears off the paving immediately with a white rag and warm water.

## Movement joints

These must be planned for in the design stage of the installation. They must be a minimum of 6mm wide and as deep as the tile adhesive bed and incorporated in the following areas of the paved areas:

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- At 4 linear meter intervals
- At any joint where pavers placed vertically and pavers placed horizontally meet
- Over existing expansion joints
- At internal and external corners
- Where different materials meet

The movement joint must be a minimum of 6 mm wide and as deep as the tile and adhesive bed and be filled with an elastomeric sealant such as **Sika "SIKAFLEX"**. It is recommended that the edge of the pavers be protected with a suitable removable tape (such as masking tape) to prevent the **SIKAFLEX** from contacting the face of the paver.

### C. Laying Wilson stone bullnose onto a rigid base

Because of the large dimensions of Wilsonstone bullnose sections and other pool coping pieces it is important that a very flexible adhesive be used when laying on a rigid base to allow for differential movement. Under no circumstances should Wilsonstone bullnose be laid on a wet bed.

This specification must be read in conjunction with the Australian standard AS 3958.1 "guide for the installation of ceramic tiles, part 1".

### Surface preparation

The substrate must be firm, dry, sound and smooth, being free of all contaminants including grease, oil, wax, curing, compounds, paint, plaster droppings and any other contaminants that may interfere with the bonding of the adhesive onto the substrate. The concrete surface must be left with a wood float finish, and be cured for at least 28 days prior to the laying of the Wilsonstone sections. A screed must be left with a wood float finish and be cured for at least 7 days prior to the application of the adhesive. The final surface onto which Wilsonstone bullnose sections are laid must have a fall of minimum 1:100.

### Adhesive

**ASA "Polyflex"** adhesive used in accordance with the manufacturers instructions.

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## Application

Apply the **ASA polyflex** onto the correctly prepared substrate using a 10mm\*10mm notched trowel. Ensure that the tiles are worked well into the adhesive that is in total contact with the substrate concrete. Only spread sufficient adhesive that can be tiled over before the adhesive skins (approximately 1sqm at a time). The Wilsonstone sections must not be disturbed or grouted for at least 24 hours after laying.

## Grouting

Once the adhesive has dried (at least 24 hrs) the joints shall be grouted using **Sika Sikaflex** grout. It is recommended that the edge of the tiles be protected with a suitable removable tape (such as masking tape) to prevent **Sikaflex** from contacting the tile face. Use **sikaflex** in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

## Movement joints

These must be planned to the design stage of the installation. They must be a minimum of 6mm wide and as deep as the tile and adhesive bed and incorporated in the following areas of the paved areas:

- At 4 linear meter intervals
- At any joint where pavers placed vertically and pavers placed horizontally meet
- Over existing expansion joints
- At internal and external corners
- Where different materials meet

The movement joint must be a minimum of 6mm wide and as deep as the tile and adhesive bed and be filled with **Sika "Sikaflex"** according to the manufacturer's instructions.

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