



“There’s nothing more *satisfying* than laying your own garden patio this weekend...

soon after, you can sit back and *enjoy the fruits* of your own labour with a great family barbeque!”



Try to plan your project in advance and assemble all the materials and tools you need before you start...

### Tools you may require;

tape measure,  
pegs and line,  
spirit level,  
spade,  
trowel,  
rubber mallet,  
hammer,  
chisel,  
soft brush,  
gloves

### The materials required;

paving slabs,  
building sand,  
cement,  
watering can,  
watering can rose.  
(attachment which gives a gentle spray)

You can find everything you need for your project at Applegate Garden’s, visit [www.applegategardens.co.uk](http://www.applegategardens.co.uk).



### Follow these 6 easy steps;

1. Using a scaled plan of the patio, mark out it’s position using pegs and a line, clearing the site of all vegetation.
2. Dig out your soil to a depth of about 150 mm or 6” below the finished patio level, ensuring the soil is compacted.
3. Spread an good layer of at least 100 mm or 4” thick of Hardcore over the excavated area. Remember to leave room for the thickness of the slabs and around 30-50 mm or approximately 2” of Mortar. Compact this layer of Hardcore thoroughly, ideally using a plate compactor if you have one.
4. Using your house wall, fence or pegs and line as a reference, start to lay your slabs. Tap each slab down using a rubber mallet and continuously check they are level. You can use wooden spacers to ensure equal gaps between slabs.
5. Continue until all the slabs in your patio are laid, being careful to check you follow your slope level as you go. If any of your slabs have to be cut, use an angle grinder, or a chisel and hammer to cut your slabs effectively.
6. When the patio is finished, wait a few of days for the mortar to set. Fill joints with a dry mortar mix, and gently wet using a watering can with a fine rose. Again you should leave for a few days more before breaking out that Barbeque and enjoying the fun!

For more detailed advice on landscaping for beginners visit [www.applegategardens.co.uk](http://www.applegategardens.co.uk)



### You must also remember;

Your patio must be at least 150 mm or 6” below your house DPC (Damp Proof Course) if it’s next to the house. Slope the patio away from walls or fence, a slope of just 25 mm over 1.5 m (or 1:60) should be sufficient.