Before you start to Use *EASY*Joint

As with any job in life, the quality of the preparation work will directly affect the end result. For the best possible finish to your paving, ensure you get the basics right. We would suggest Build it on a good foundation.

In the UK, the generally accepted method of laying paving has become that of laying it on a "bound" or solid base. This foundation is generally made of a sharp sand and cement mixture.

1. **The Mix.** For areas where a vehicle may drive over or stand then a strong mix of 3 parts sand to 1 part cement is recommended.

   For pedestrian areas, a mix of 6 parts sand to 1 part cement is more suitable.

   NOTE. The stronger the mix (otherwise called "fatter") the less porous it becomes. When using ***EASY*Joint**, one of its benefits is that it is permeable—that is to say it allows water to drain through. If you have a very fat mix there is a higher risk of water draining through the joint and then sitting on top of the foundation. This is not much of a problem until there is a strong and prolonged frost. In such cases the water may freeze and expand and so cause the jointing compound to "blow" out of the joint. It is therefore recommended, where possible, to use ***EASY*Joint** with a weaker mix of 6:1 sand/cement.

2. **Wet or Dry?** An age old question—do you lay on a "wet" or a "dry" mix? It's often a matter of personal choice, but more generally, professionals will have a dry-ish mix. That is to say firm enough to hold in an open fingered hand without dropping through. If it is too dry then it becomes hard to bed the paving and on thinner materials you risk breaking the flag. If it is too wet, then you risk staining the material you are working with.

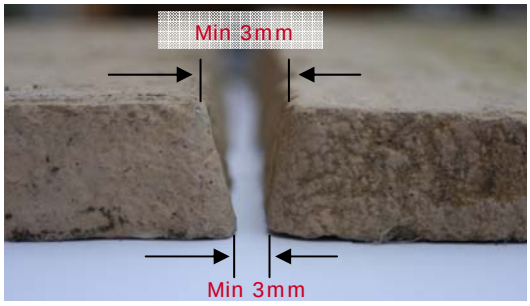
3. **Solid Base or "Dot & Dab?"** Historically you would always have had a solid base but in recent years the Dot and Dab method of creating 5 piles of mortar (one in each corner of the paving stone and one in the middle) came to the fore.

   When working with ***EASY*Joint** you must always have a solid foundation, otherwise the compound will simply run down between the paving and disappear beneath it!

4. **Gap Sizes.** The gaps between the paving must be a minimum of 3mm wide and, if laid on a solid "bound" foundation, 25mm deep. If laying on an unbound foundation (sand or type 1 aggregate) then the depth should be at least 30mm

   When working with thin materials of less than, say, 30mm thick, to achieve the required depth of joint, create a channel in the foundation around the edge of each paving stone so that even though the paving material is less than 25mm, there is still 25mm or more depth for the ***EASY*Joint** to sit in.

Always maintain at least a 3mm gap width throughout the depth of the paving material. This is particularly important when working with paving that has chamfered edges. See photograph below.



How to Use *EASY*Joint

Whilst it is possible to apply *EASY*Joint dry, it is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** to lay it wet. There is an exception to this which is when weather conditions and ground temperatures are at, or below, zero. More information on this is given on page 3 and in the General Information and Precautions notes on page 4.

Application Method

The method described below should be used in **all instances** unless ground temperatures are below freezing.

Items required

- Appropriate quantity of
- ***EASY*Joint**
- Hose with spray attachment
- Medium bristle broom
- Jointing Iron (optional)

Step 1

Wet the paving for a **minimum of 10 minutes** to minimise the formation of sheen on the surface. Do not shortcut this process or worry if water settles in the joints - it will be displaced when the ***EASY*Joint** is swept in. The wetter the surface the better the end result - particularly with absorbent natural stones.

Step 2

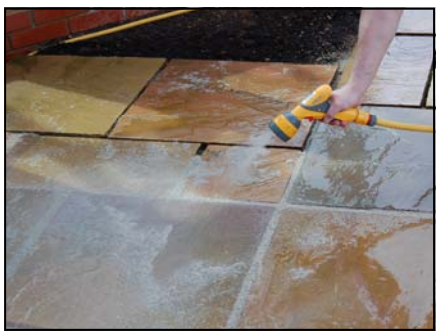
Open one bag and pour the contents onto the paving. If using the product for the first time, start with small quantities of ***EASY*Joint**, sufficient to work in a few minutes.

NOTE. Do not pile up or leave ***EASY*Joint** standing in one spot, nor allow the paving to dry out with the compound on its surface.

Step 3

Spread the ***EASY*Joint** across the surface with a squeegee or broom, allowing it to fall into the joints.

TIP. Keep your eye on the areas where you are not working and ensure they remain very wet at all times. This is particularly important in warm or hot weather conditions.



Step 4

Once you have opened and spread one or two tubs, using a hose on a "fan" or "spray" setting, flush the compound into the joints to ensure it fully settles to the bottom. Again, do not worry about the amount of water being used. You can do this as often as you like—after each tub is fine. **Remember** - the wetter the better!

Step 5

Top up any sagging joints with more ***EASY*Joint**. Don't be concerned about the mess for you are about to wash it in again with more water, repeating the process in Step 4. Continue to "top up" and "wash in" until you are satisfied.

NOTE. Keep all of the paving soaking wet all the time.

Step 6

Once all the joints are uniformly filled to within 1 or 2 millimetres of the surface of the paving, go over the entire area you have worked and apply a final **gentle** spray of water to wash away any final traces of compound from the surface. This also assists to obtain a relatively smooth finish to the joint, although it will have a **slightly** course texture.

Should any fine traces of sand remain do not sweep them away yet. Wait until the joints of set hard, (see Step 7).

Step 7

Optional. For a finer texture to the joint, "point" the compound with a suitable jointing iron or similar tool.

This exercise should be carried out when the water has drained away and the paving surface has started to dry out so that the joint is not too soft and soggy — in this way the final "shape" of the joint will remain intact as it dries hard.

Finally, once the joint has **set hard,** a final sweep across the paving with a stiff broom, diagonally to the joints, will remove any last traces of ***EASY*Joint** from the surface.

What if it rains?

If it rains during the laying process, don't worry. As can be gathered water does not damage the product.

If it rains after laying it has two effects:-

1. It will delay the setting process—as long as the product is wet it will not set (see Setting Times)
2. **Very heavy** rain may spoil any finish you have applied to the joint, so it *may* be necessary to go back and re-point the joint.

Dry Application

(Use this method with extreme caution)

Important Information—Please Read.

- Only use this method if ground temperatures are below freezing and you are working with very hard non-porous materials.
- **Do not use this method with natural sandstones or any other porous material.** Wait until weather conditions improve and you can use the Wet Method described above. See General Information and Precautions on page 4.

1. Follow steps 2 & 3 as described on the previous page. It is recommended that more attention is given to compacting it into the joints as without water to assist the process it is possible that voids may occur, resulting in a weaker joint. If necessary, use a pointing trowel or similar tool to aid compaction.
2. As with the Wet Application method, if a fine texture to the joint is required, "point" the compound with a suitable tool.

Important Note. Use this method with extreme caution. Please read General Information and Precautions on page 4.

Left Over / Unused Product

Any unused ***EASY*Joint** can be saved for later use.

Step 1

Pour any unused product into an empty plastic outer container. You can safely sweep any residue material from the paving surface and put this in too!

Step 2

Add sufficient water to cover the surface of the compound by approximately 2 cm (1 inch). Replace the lid. Product kept in this manner will remain stable and safe for use for up to one month.

Setting Times

The times indicated are based on temp's. of 20°C and 65% humidity - Cold/wet weather increases setting times - warm/dry weather decreases them. Read on for a greater understanding

EASYJoint is a compound that is oxygen cured. It therefore needs air to start and complete the setting process. Inclement weather conditions will not prevent the use or application of EASYJoint but it will effect the time it takes for the compound to cure and set hard.

Cold conditions can increase the setting time considerably - freezing weather will cause the process to slow down and it can take many days for the joints to set hard. But don't panic! Whilst it may be slow in setting, it will eventually go hard and the weather will not have impaired its qualities in any way.

Wet Conditions similarly, slow down the setting time. Whilst EASYJoint is wet, either through rainfall or the application of water whilst laying it, the setting process will be suspended. Prolonged periods of rain, or several intermittent showers may considerably extend the setting times indicated. But again, rain will not affect the final qualities of the product in any way.

To summarize, in temperatures of 20˚C and with humidity of 65%, the joint needs to be free from water for about 24 hours for the curing process to complete.

Wet Application

Pedestrian Areas
In warm & dry weather, the paving is safe to walk on after approximately 12 - 18 hours and will set hard after approximately 24 hours. It will be fully load bearing after approximately 3 days of consistent warm and dry weather.

Domestic Driveways (For vehicles up to 3 tonnes).
Assuming the curing process is complete and the joint is hard to the touch, keep vehicles off the surface for at least a further 7 days (preferably 10 days).

Dry Application

Pedestrian Areas
Safe to walk on after approximately 8 hours - fully load bearing after approximately 2 - 3 days.

Domestic Driveways (For vehicles up to 3 tonnes).
Keep vehicles off the surface for at least 5 days (preferably 8+ days)

Note: *EASY*Joint continues to harden for several weeks and achieves its full strength after about 3 to 4 weeks.

General Information and Precautions

As the company cannot be aware of all the applications and materials the product may be used on, it is the user's responsibility to determine suitability for use. **If in any doubt test a sample before use.** For more information please read our Technical Data Sheet available from the Downloads page of our website www.easyjoint.eu

ALWAYS USE PLENTY OF WATER BEFORE AND DURING THE APPLICATION PROCESS.

If insufficient or no water is used, particularly when working with porous stone such as Mint Fossil Sandstone and some darker coloured materials like as Raj Green Sandstone or Black Limestone, there is a risk that you may be left with a shiny oil film across the surface, or that "spotting" may occur (a freckled appearance to the paving).

If plenty of water has been used during the application as described in this leaflet, then the risk of these changes is minimal and if there are any traces they will in virtually all instances fade away with natural weathering and use, although no guarantees of this are given or implied. It is also possible for these particularly absorbent materials to change in colour (deepen). In such circumstances the colour change may be permanent although it normally "softens" with the passing of time. No guarantees in this respect are given or implied. **If in any doubt test a sample before use.**

Neither the manufacturer or supplier accepts any liability for any changes in the appearance of the paving

Technical Information

Working Temperatures:	>0˚C for wet application
	<0˚C dry application only
Joint Sizes:	Min 3mm Width
	Min 25mm Depth (if laid on a solid foundation)
	Min 30mm Depth (if laid on sand or Type 1)
Waste Hazard Class:	WGK 0
Hazard Class:	Contents—non hazardous
Waste disposal key	91206
Density (approx.):	1.8 g/cm³
Shelf Life:	Unlimited
Compressive Strength:	17.5N/mm²

Mild Irritant

Contains no hazardous materials but may cause mild irritation to the skin or respiratory system. Wear gloves. Wash hands after use.