



INSTALLATION OF SELF BINDING PATH GRAVEL

The correct laying of Self Binding Gravel is critical to its performance.

Incorrect laying will result in a loose surface, prone to waterlogging and rutting. Here we will explain how to lay Self Binding Gravel.

Sub-Base

Drainage is the key. A wet surface will lose compaction, be prone to frost damage in winter and be difficult to walk on. Water must not be allowed to accumulate in or directly beneath the material. The sub-base needs to consist of an angular free draining aggregate such as Type 1, laid to a minimum depth of 50mm for foot traffic. If the finished surface is waterlogged and boggy, you can almost guarantee this is caused by a waterlogged sub-base. It is also advisable to use a stabilising membrane, please ensure this goes underneath the sub-base and not between the sub-base and the Self Binding Gravel.

Edging

In most situations an edging would be used to separate a path from the surrounding landscape. Although not essential an edging helps with compaction of Self Binding Gravel as it prevents lateral movement of the material and also gives you a level to work to if laying material with a screed method. It is important that any edging used does not contain the sub-base as this will restrict the sub-base's ability to drain. Edgings are generally made from timber, concrete or block paviours.

First Layers

Self-Binding Gravels need to spread and compacted in thin layers. We recommend a finished compacted depth of no more than 50mm. Initially a 15-20mm layer should be spread using the back of a rake or screeding board. It is important the product is not spread using a tined rake as this will separate the coarse material from the fines and result in a patchy finish. Once the initial layer is spread it may be necessary to spray the material with water before compacting. If the product is too dry it will not compact. The amount of water added will vary depending on how damp the product is on arrival and the weather conditions. You will know if too much water has been added as the vibration from the roller will cause water to bubble up on the surface when compacting. The product should be compacted initially with vibration turned on before the final passes are completed with no vibration.

Final Layer

The final layer should be applied in same manner as the previous layers but leaving a camber or crossfall (sometimes called a crown) to ensure surface water does not pool. Although water will slowly drain through the material this should not be encouraged as it will cause compaction to be lost and thus excessive surface water needs to fall away from the surface. The final passes with the whacker plate should be completed with vibration turned off. It may be necessary to spray the roller drum with water to prevent fines from sticking and also to ensure any surface cracks are filled to leave a firm finish. The product should be left to dry before pedestrians are permitted to walk on it. The naturally occurring fines and clay found in the product will allow the surface to become firmer over time provided the correct installation procedure has been followed.

Maintenance

Occasional sweeping to remove leaves/detritus and any wind-blown weeds which may have established. Self-binding gravels are hard wearing but can naturally form cracks over time. This is easily remedied by periodic rolling and sweeping, also necessary to prevent water ingress and subsequent frost blown surface.



Tools & Materials required;

- ☐ Stabilising Membrane
- ☐ MOT Type 1 for subbase
- ☐ Self-Binding Gravel. (Cotswold-gold/buff colour or Somerset-grey colour)
- ☐ Digging Spade
- ☐ Wheelbarrow
- ☐ Vibrating roller or whacker plate. (Alternatively use a plank of wood and sledgehammer)
- ☐ Hose pipe, watering can or sprinkler.
- ☐ Edging stones, timber, sleepers or metal edging.

1. Once you have decided where you want your path to run, mark out the edges with a spade edge, some chalk or sand.
2. Dig out the area to approximately 15 to 20cm (6 to 8 inches) deep.
This allows room for at least 10cm (4 inches) of MOT Type 1 and 5 to 10cm (2 to 4 inches) of Self Binding Gravel.
This is just a basic guide though; you can change these to suit your needs, but we advise these as a minimum.
50mm works best for pathways, whilst 125-150mm depth will give you a compacted depth of 100mm for driveways.
3. Once dug out, the path can then be edged using sleepers, edging stones or edging sheets (metal that can be bent into place - so best if you are using on a curved path!).
4. At the bottom of the trench you have dug, lay stabilising membrane to prevent the base aggregate sinking into to ground.
5. Along the bottom of the path, lay your base aggregate MOT Type 1 - this is so that the water can drain away whilst also creating a firm base.
6. On top of the base aggregate your Self Binding Gravel can be added. Make sure that about 2 to 3cm (1 inches) is above ground level. This will enable it to be compacted down with the vibrating roller or whacker plate but keep the final level where you want it. If you have high sides, such as with sleepers, then simply allow an extra inch to allow for compaction.
7. Use a vibrating roller or whacker plate (you can also use a plank of wood placed across the path and hit it with a sledgehammer) to level the self-binding gravel to the height you require, sprinkling a tiny amount of water when you get to the desired depth. Do not soak the self-binding material directly.
8. We do advise making sure there is very slight camber so that water will drain to the sides and away, instead of pooling in the middle of the new path during heavy rain.

Terms of use:

Sherborne Turf do not recommend this material be used during the winter. Self-binding gravels can only be laid in dry or very light rain conditions. If the rain is persistent or heavy, the material may not bind. We also do not recommend laying in cold or freezing conditions which could lead to movement and shrinkage when the ground becomes warmer. Therefore, we will not accept any responsibility if this material fails when laid during winter months against our advice. Self-binding materials are not suitable for use on any gradient greater than around 1:12 to 1:15, although the movement experienced with self-binding gravel is considerably less than that found with loose aggregates. Should a gradient greater than 1:15 be present then a series of staggered retaining boards can be applied to retain the material.