

FIREROCK 1" PAVER INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

The following describes recommended installation, care and maintenance tips for FireRock Concrete Pavers – 1" thickness. To ensure proper performance, please install pavers in accordance with the following guidelines as well as ASTM C1732.

FireRock pavers may be used indoors or outdoors. Avoid installation in extreme hot or cold weather conditions. Read installation tips in their entirety before beginning. If you have any questions about FireRock Concrete Pavers or installation, please call the Technical Service team at (888) 876-1025.

THE FOLLOWING TIPS ARE RECOMMENDED FOR INSTALLATION ON A MASONRY BASE.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- Store all materials in original packaging – pavers should be stored on their ends and not stacked
- Place pallets on a sturdy, level surface – do not double stack pallets under any circumstances
- All mortar, adhesives, grout, sealers, cleaning products and any other products used during installation/care/maintenance of the pavers must meet applicable industry standard set forth by ANSI and TCNA and be appropriate for FireRock Pavers
- Review local building code and ensure products are installed in accordance with their requirements
- For interior applications, remember to recess subfloor enough to allow space for the 1" paver, a mortar bed and crack suppressant mat



SUBSTRATE/SURFACE PREPARATION

- The substrate (bonding surface) should be clean and free of contaminants that may interfere with bonding
- New concrete slabs should be cured for 28 days; do not install pavers prior to this time
- Substrate should be plumb and level, with a maximum variation from required plane of 1/16" in 1'0" and 1/8" in 10'0"
- Concrete pad must be minimum 3" thick
- Troweled smooth finished surfaces will create potential bonding problems – surface should be mechanically scarified prior to installation to ensure bond

INSTALLATION

- FireRock recommends using an ANSI approved Large Format Thinset/S-type Mortar for installation
- Mix mortar according to instruction on the package to a smooth, paste consistency
- Spread mortar over the substrate using the flat edge of a ½" x ½" x ½" square notch or a ¾" rounded notched trowel – use of a crack suppressant mat within the mortar bed is highly recommended for interior applications
- Use the notched edge to form grooves in one direction. When mortar is properly mixed, the troweled ridges on the substrate should stand up with little or no slump
- Air and slab temperatures may affect the mortar setting time – do not spread too much mortar at one time
- Spread mortar uniformly on the back of each paver ("back butter") using the flat side of the trowel so that a minimum 95% of the back surface is covered
- Place pavers by moving them 1/8" to ¼" back and forth perpendicular to the ridges until the ridges collapse and the voids are filled
- Fill gaps at the edges of the paved area with cut pavers or edge units – cut pavers with a wet saw for best results

GROUT

- FireRock pavers are manufactured with a ½" wide grout line
- Any grout used must be in compliance with the requirements of ANSI – sanded grout or mortar mixed in accordance with Specification C270 is recommended
- A grout bag is recommended to evenly fill all joints
- All joints should be filled completely to the full depth of the paver

EXPANSION JOINTS

- Perimeter movement joints are mandatory for interior and exterior installation.
- Consult the "Movement Joints" section found in the TCNA Handbook and TCNA EJ 171 for detailed guidelines

CLEAN AND SEAL

All FireRock pavers should be sealed as soon as possible after installation. While sealing will not ensure that pavers will not stain, it will provide some benefit and allow user additional time to clean pavers. Additionally, sealing will assist in preserving color and original appearance.

- Immediately following installation, clean pavers with a neutral, non-acidic cleaner following manufacturer's instructions
- Allow pavers to dry 24 hours, protecting them from foot traffic, dirt and debris
- Seal pavers with a water-based penetrating sealant following manufacturer's instructions

Pavers need to be resealed periodically. Consult the sealer manufacturer for specific guidelines.

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

Do not allow mortar or grout to set up on the face of a paver. To remove excess mortar or grout, do not use a wet brush, wire brush or muriatic acid. Cleaning of FireRock pavers should be performed as needed using a non-acidic multi-use cleaner for use in concrete pavers, concrete flat work and retaining walls. These advanced cleaners dislodge deep set dirt and grime and environmental soiling. Always follow manufacturer's written instructions when using a particular cleaner and spot test as small area before cleaning larger areas.