

EASYJoint

INSTRUCTIONS & PRECAUTIONS FOR PEDESTRIAN PAVING AREAS

Before using EASYJoint

Read these instructions before commencing work. If your project is for a domestic driveway rather than a pedestrian area refer to www.azpects.co.uk **EASYJoint** is designed for use on a permeable base. Read the information below to avoid possible issues from either incorrect application or a non-suitable site.

Site Conditions

IMPORTANT Your project's ground conditions must be free draining. If the area stays naturally wet and rarely dries out, or if there is a high water table, then **EASYJoint should not be used**. If the paving base never or rarely dries, nor will the bottom of the joints, resulting in joint failure. If the joints cannot gain full exposure to air, sometimes the top will crust over (from evaporation) but the lower section of the joint may not cure properly. Ensure the project has a suitable "fall" to allow surface water to drain away.

Base Mix

Permeable Projects

EASYJoint works best and is designed for use on a free draining permeable base.

For a project to fully drain, both the bedding mix and sub-base must be permeable. Assuming a permeable subbase, a bedding mix of 6 parts sharp sand to 1 part cement (6:1) or weaker ensures good drainage and is perfectly adequate for pedestrian areas. Simply follow the instructions lower down the page.

Impermeable Projects

Some paving types require a stronger bedding mix of 5:1 or less to ensure satisfactory adhesion to the paving material or when constructing a vehicular drive. **EASYJoint** can still be used but with caution and subject to the site being well drained (see above). However, because the project will become either impermeable or at least very slow to drain, do not follow the instructions lower down the page but refer to www.azpects.co.uk under the application method for **domestic driveways**.

As a general precaution, if using **EASYJoint** on an impermeable base, or with a strong bedding mix, do not install if rain is forecast within 48 hours. More information on weather conditions and how to work on impermeable projects is available at www.azpects.co.uk

If working with previously laid paving where the strength of the base mix is unknown, or when working on or creating a domestic vehicular driveway, err on the side of caution and assume the base is impermeable.

Weather Conditions

When working on a permeable project **EASYJoint** can be applied in virtually all weather conditions using the standard Wet Application Method (see lower down). In freezing conditions, or in falling temperatures below 3°C., refer to the website for guidance.

If heavy or prolonged rain is forecast, **particularly if working with an impermeable base**, wait for drier conditions. See www.azpects.co.uk for more information.

Joint Dimensions

For paving on a solid foundation; min. 3mm wide x 25mm deep. For paving on a sand or crushed aggregate foundation; min. 3mm wide x 30mm deep. Ensure that at least the minimum gap width is maintained throughout the full depth of the paving material.

With thin paving it is difficult to achieve 25mm depth. To achieve it, create a channel in the base material by running the tip of a trowel around the exposed edges of each paver to create 25mm depth for **EASYJoint** to sit in.

Colours

EASYJoint is a natural product & shades can vary. Wherever possible select tubs from the same pallet to complete a project. If extending a previously jointed project, be aware that variances in colour are likely. The colours depicted on the tub and illustrated on the website are representative only.

Standard Wet Application Method

Users are **strongly advised** to watch the video demonstration available at www.azpects.co.uk prior to working with **EASYJoint**. This **EASYJoint** section of this comprehensive website provides a wealth of useful information with detailed instructions as well as useful tips, FAQ's and watch-points. Before starting the job, please also read the **General Information & Precautions** section at the back of this leaflet.

Provided the site and weather conditions meet those described above and the paving material is not overly sensitive (see lower down), the following standard Wet Application Method is suitable for most concrete and natural stone installations on a permeable base. If the site conditions, materials or paving base do not meet the requirements, refer to www.azpects.co.uk for additional guidance.

For a Permeable Project

1. Wet the Paving. Absolutely soak the area to be jointed with water using a hose. The paving must be saturated before starting and remain soaked throughout the application process - in fact, **the wetter the better**. Do not shortcut this process, particularly if working with absorbent or sensitive materials such as Fossil Mint Sandstone, Modac and many Limestone types.

2. Work Quickly. It's preferable for two operators to work together; one sweeping, the other using the hose. Using small quantities of **EASYJoint**, simultaneously spread and wash the compound across the surface using a jet of water and a broom/squeegee, allowing it to fall into the joints. **Never** allow **EASYJoint** to stand in piles or allow the paving to dry with any **EASYJoint** remaining on its surface.

3. Continuously Wash the Paving. The hose operator should alternate between following the sweeper to aid washing the compound into the joints and moving ahead of where they are working so that the paving is always wet. This is particularly important in warm/hot weather conditions. Don't worry about using too much water - **you can't use too much!**

4. Top up the Joints Allow the excess water to drain away. Top up any sagging joints with more **EASYJoint** and repeat the washing process as described previously.

5. Final Wash & Clean. Apply a final gentle spray of water across the surface to both wash off any **EASYJoint** residue and to aid the final compaction process. This will also provide a relatively smooth and pleasing finish to the joint. Work conscientiously not to leave any grains of sand on the surface. When the water has drained away, a "flicking" motion with a clean soft hand brush (not the same one used to apply the compound) will aid the removal of any loose grains.

Tips

1. Work cleanly, clearing both the sand grains and the binding oil from the surface as you go. Keep washing until the "rainbow effect" oily water is no longer evident.
2. For a finer texture to the joints, "point" or "strike" them with a suitable finishing tool. Start once the paving has dried and the joints are drained, to ensure the compound is firm enough to retain its shape.
3. Once **EASYJoint** has set hard in the joints, sweep the paving with a stiff broom, diagonally to the joints, to remove any final traces of compound, especially along the edges of "struck" joints. Do not use the same broom that was used in the application process.
4. Unused but opened **EASYJoint** can be saved for later use by pouring it back into the tub (not in the bag) and covering it with 25-50mm of water. The product will remain usable for many months.

Setting Times

In dry conditions & warm to moderate temperatures and humidity, **EASYJoint** should be firm enough to walk on within 12-18 hours and will cure very hard within a few days.

Cold and Wet Conditions increase the setting time considerably. Freezing weather will cause the process to virtually cease and it can take **many days** for the joints to set hard. However **EASYJoint** will eventually set and the weather conditions will not have impaired its integrity in any way. Similarly, whilst **EASYJoint** remains wet, either via the application process or through rainfall, the curing process will be suspended. Prolonged periods of rain, or several intermittent showers will considerably extend the setting times. Again, this will not affect the final integrity of the product in any way **provided water can drain easily away** and so allow even curing throughout the joints (as previously explained).

For an Impermeable Project

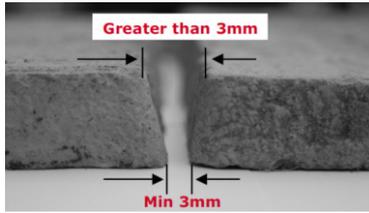
A higher degree of caution must be applied when using **EASYJoint** and it should not be installed if rain is forecast within 48 hours. Do not simply follow the above instructions. **EASYJoint** can still be used but please refer to the **EASYJoint** section on www.azpects.co.uk under the application method for **domestic driveways**.



Concrete paving with a chamfered edge

Some concrete paving is made in moulds & has chamfered edges. In such cases, when two paving slabs are laid side by side a "V" shaped gap is formed, wider at the top than at the bottom. This gap shape can be the most challenging to work with and we recommend you carefully follow the instructions below.

1. Maintain the Width of Joint Throughout. Maintain at least a 3mm gap width throughout the depth of the paving material. Never have this type of paving butted together. See photograph adjacent.

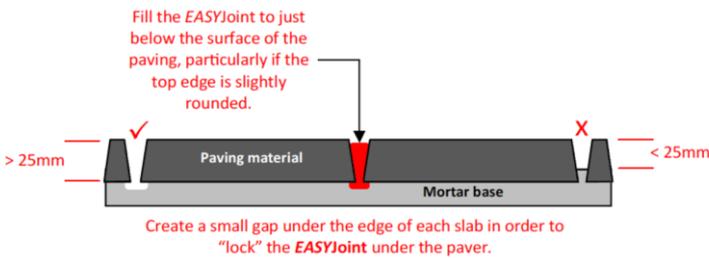


2. Lock in the Joint. An irregular "V" shaped joint means that any type of filler, *EASYJoint* included, will have difficulty in staying in place.

To form a stable joint when laying the paving, draw the tip of your trowel along the bottom edge of each slab so that a small gap forms along & under the paving edge. *EASYJoint* will flow into the gap and when set will be locked into place. See diagram below.

3. To further aid this, "point" or "strike" the joint; do not leave it textured. This ensures the top of the filler is below the top rounded edge of the paving and helps it adhere to the base and sides of the paving material.

4. Do not overfill the Joint. As with all types of paving, never overfill the joint. This is particularly important if the paving has a "rounded" top edge. The filler should be kept below the start of the "rounding". See diagram below.



Can *EASYJoint* be used on Domestic Driveways?

EASYJoint has good compressive strength and can easily withstand the downward pressures exerted by a domestic car **provided** the surface material is effectively bedded into the base material.

EASYJoint does not form a structural part of any paving or driveway project; it only serves as a joint filler. If the surface material is not adequately bedded into the base then the joint filler will not withstand the twisting (torque) caused when a vehicle changes direction (i.e. turning). Most vehicular drives will have a strong and consequently less permeable mix of the base material. Refer to www.azpects.co.uk for more information under the application method for **domestic driveways**.

General Information & Precautions

1. Read the Instructions & visit our website - www.azpects.co.uk for more detailed instructions The product is easy to use but our instructions must be followed carefully. Installers are advised to download the more detailed version of these instructions and to watch the DVD (available on the website and from the supplier).

2. Site Conditions. The site conditions must be appropriate for use as previously explained.

3. Use plenty of water. When using the Wet Application Method as herein described, it cannot be overly stressed to use plenty of water before, during and after the application of *EASYJoint*. The water acts as a barrier between *EASYJoint* and the paving material and prevents the paving being marked.

4. Sensitive Paving Materials Even using liberal amounts of water, some types of natural stone, e.g. Granite, Black Limestone and Modak, can be very sensitive and susceptible to marking from the natural environment, from mortar used for the base or joints and from specialist joint fillers.

To greatly diminish the possibility of marking these types of stone we **strongly recommend** sealing the paving with a **breathable** sealant, if possible before installation but certainly **prior** to jointing. A breathable sealer will provide protection both during the jointing process and afterwards. It will also allow any efflorescence (white deposits caused by natural salts) present in the base and substrate to pass through the paving material and over time, dissipate into the atmosphere. This is a problem that is particularly prevalent in Black Limestone and will regularly appear after installation. **It is not caused by the use of *EASYJoint*.**

Our own water-based sealants - *EASYSeal SSP* & *EASYSeal Ultimate* - are ideal for this purpose. More information on these issues can be found at www.azpects.co.uk/sealers-and-protectors. If in doubt please contact us at info@azpects.co.uk or call us on 01473 760777.

5. User's responsibility. The company cannot be aware of all the applications and materials the product may be used with. **It is the user's responsibility to determine suitability for use.** If used in accordance with the instructions, the product should set hard and not affect the aesthetic properties of the material on which it is used, but no guarantee of this is given or implied. Neither the manufacturer nor supplier accepts any liability for: (a) the joint failing as a result of inherent site conditions, (b) any changes in the appearance of the paving resulting from the use of *EASYJoint* or (c) any visual or physical changes to the joint, whether naturally occurring or from the application of any other substance, i.e. cleaning products or protection coats. **If in any doubt test a sample before use.**

Refer to www.azpects.co.uk for more detailed precautionary advice and other general information.

6. *EASYJoint* is permeable. Because dirty surface water can drain through the joint, over time it will result in a visual change to the *EASYJoint* colour. This is entirely natural; it is not a fault and it will not impair the integrity of the product. The joints can be cleaned by the cautious use of a pressure washer, keeping a "fan" type nozzle no closer than 150mm (6 inches) from the surface. **Do not use a pressure washer on your paving until at least 4 weeks after *EASYJoint*'s application.**

7. Strength The compressive strength of *EASYJoint* is such that it will adequately take the downward forces exerted by pedestrians and domestic cars, but is not designed to form a structural part of the path/driveway. The integrity of the project can only be maintained if the surface material is adequately bedded into the base, which in turn is constructed to an appropriate specification.

8. Sealing the paving. *EASYJoint* can be sealed but it is recommended not to apply any type of sealer over the joint for at least a month after it has set hard. Depending on the type of sealant used, *EASYJoint* may or may not remain permeable.

9. Applying *EASYJoint* without water. Installers are **strongly advised** to apply *EASYJoint* using the Wet Application Method (as described in these instructions) wherever possible. However, there are circumstances where this method may not be suitable, such as when using the compound in freezing conditions, or in temperatures of 3°C and falling or when working with particularly strong, impermeable bases, such as used on driveways. In such instances, or if there is uncertainty about the appropriate installation method, refer to the website for further guidance.

10. Footwear caution The soles of footwear may pick up some *EASYJoint* during the application process. Clean them before walking across dried (or drying) paving to avoid leaving "footmarks". For similar reasons, do not use the same broom that was used to apply the *EASYJoint* to clear the surface afterwards; it will be contaminated and may leave marks.

HEALTH & SAFETY

No significant hazard.

Avoid contact with skin and eyes. In case of contact with eyes, rinse immediately with plenty of water and seek medical advice.

May cause irritation to sensitive skin. After contact with skin, wash immediately with plenty of soap and water. Wear suitable protective clothing and gloves.

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