

Top tips for paving your driveway

There are plenty of ways to update your driveway and even more ways to approach it as a project.

We recommend sourcing an average of three quotes as part of your research. By familiarising yourself with the requirements and being clear on the finish and style of driveway you desire you can source quotes that are like-for-like so you can easily evaluate and compare.

Check if VAT is included in your quote as this can be a significant unexpected cost if not clarified from the outset.

- **How will the ground be prepared?** Ensure that your quote is inclusive of the necessary sub-base preparation, otherwise your investment won't be properly protected.
- **What materials/finish am I being quoted for?** Each option has its own pros and cons, so it's essential to clarify what material/finish is being quoted for when weighing up your options.
- **Do your research,** to understand exactly what you want from your new driveway both in terms of look and function and what finish would work best to achieve your desired objective.
- **Block paving will create a more traditional look,** while a resin bound paving solution will offer a more contemporary, practical finish, that is also cost effective. If you are after natural stone, prices will increase significantly.
- **More intricate patterns** in the finished drive such as circles or rectangles will not be included in standard quotes so you must specify anything unusual beforehand as it will impact on the cost.
- **How many cars will it fit?** A professional will easily see ways to make the most of tighter spaces and will recommend a layout that will suit your requirements, be it easy access for one small car, or fitting two four-wheel drives into a tighter space.
- **Do you want to retain some lawn?** It is important you clarify with the installer and are clear on the size of the area you are looking to pave and what part of the lawn, if any, you may want to keep.
- **Check whether you'll need planning permission.** A new vehicle access point for your home will likely require planning permission as this involves dropping a kerb outside your home's boundary. It's also important to factor in drainage. Any hard surface over 5m², which resides between the home's front and the public road requires planning permission, unless the surface is SuDS-compliant i.e. permeable. Clarify requirements with your landscaper before any work begins. If permission is required, you will need to go through the planning process first to ensure everything is viable.
- **Is VAT included in the quote?** With VAT currently at 22.5%, this can be a significant unexpected cost if not clarified from the outset.

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