

Pavers for Your Home

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Pavers (also called paving stones) are becoming a more and more popular addition to landscapes along the Central Coast of California. Pavers add to the value of your home and have been proven to last decades without cracking or deteriorating. The purpose of this short piece is to introduce the material, selection and its ease of installation.

Pavers come in a wide variety of shapes, colors and textures. In some instances, the cost per square foot can even be compared to that of stamped or colored concrete. Scientific testing has shown that pavers are nearly three times the strength of regular concrete. Best of all, modern technology enables impregnated color that lasts for decades.

When it comes to selection of just the right paving stone, there are a lot of options. Most pavers come in three primary colors that include tan, charcoal or red. There are several finishes to choose from including a classic, textured or even distressed look. It's worth mentioning that there is a growing number of permeable pavers available. In some cases, homeowners can get water credits for installing permeable pavers. Finally, if you're on a budget, I recommend inquiring with your favorite landscaping yard about "seconds." These are pavers that feature the same warranty as any other pavers but suffer slight visual defects.

Pavers are most commonly installed to replace concrete driveways and paths around homes and businesses. When considering adding them to your landscape, start with a plan. Get an approximate measurement of the area you'd like to cover and head to a local landscape supply to look at the many options available. Estimates are generally given by the square foot and the price per square foot can range from \$3.00 to \$6.00 and up based on the size of the job.

Once you have decided on your scope and style, it is time to prepare for installation. In most cases, customers will get three bids from a professional. There are dozens of qualified firms locally that I recommend all the time. Knowing your material and square footage puts you in the driver's seat. In the end, teaming up with a professional will gain you contractor pricing as well.

Should you decide to install yourself, consider one of many local workshops that pop up in the area on the subject of pavers. In most cases, a level and compact foundation is where you will need to start. Customers will want to be sure the foundation includes bases rock and plenty of water to assure good stability. A gas powered "vibra-plate" will be necessary as well. Using a level, string and plenty of grey fines and sand, your new paved surface will take shape.

Homes and businesses adorned with pavers have a higher property value than those that don't. Pavers don't break or crack and hold their color longer than about any other concrete material on the market. Are you starting to think about your next project? I know I am. Here's to success !!! *Steve McShane is Owner & General Manager of McShane's Nursery & Landscape in Salinas. He can be reached at steve@mcshanesnursery.com .*

Steve McShane Biography (Revised 7-14)

Steve McShane is Owner & General Manager of McShane's Nursery & Landscape Supply in Salinas, California. He has a B.S. in Soil Science from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and an M.B.A. from Santa Clara. He serves on the Salinas City Council. When not working, he loves hiking, traveling to far reaches of the planet and experimenting with exotic fruits. He can be reached at steve@mcshanesnursery.com .