

The Gothicstone Collection

PAVER BUYER'S GUIDE

PRESENTED BY

THE GOTHICSTONE COLLECTION

Home of the Natural

Travertine, Marble, Limestone and Lava Stone Pavers

INTRODUCTION

If you have requested this *Paver Buyer's Guide*, you must be thinking about either adding or replacing a patio, pool deck, walkway or driveway. At **The Gothicstone Collection**, we know that you have many choices and that getting good, useful information is a very important part of your decision making process. This project is an investment in your home and you are trying to make the best decision possible that meets both your needs and desires not to mention meeting sensible investment objectives. And, like most of us, you may lack the time and/or access to the expertise. Of course we all have different priorities when implementing a home project... but bottom-line, the end result should be beautiful, durable and reflect your lifestyle. At **Gothicstone** we pride ourselves on being the experts regarding natural stone tile and pavers! What we have set out to do in this guide is educate you about your choices so you can make the best decision for your hardscaping project, whether you choose **Gothicstone Pavers**® or not!!

"Before everything else, getting ready is the secret of success." --Henry Ford

While this guide is entitled *Paver Buyer's Guide*, we feel that you should be aware of all your decorative hardscaping options and that you should be educated about each. It is important to us that you are an educated consumer, which means being able to make the best decision possible based on accurate information.

But first, what exactly is hardscaping, and man-made vs. natural stone pavers?

Hardscaping - The part of a building's grounds consisting of structures, such as patios, retaining walls, pool decking and walkways, made with masonry type materials.

Man-Made Pavers - Man-made bricks made from various slurries of concrete and artificial pigments, which are formed into various shaped blocks with tolerances of +/- 1/6th to 1/8th, inch that are then dry-set in sand. There is no color and movement variation from piece to piece, only from lot to lot.

Antiqued Natural Stone Pavers - Extremely durable travertine, limestone, marble or lava stone pavers, naturally quarried from the earth and cut into shapes of a paving stone, then honed and antiqued. Major attributes of dry-set natural stone pavers are that they stay cool underfoot (except lava), are freeze-thaw compatible in all climates and require no sealing or maintenance.

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I. Your Hardscaping Choices - A Comparison

We know that you have many concerns when making your decision about a hardscaping product. They include, but are not limited to, aesthetics/appearance, durability, maintenance, installation and the cost of your investment. We will cover each of these issues with each type of decorative hardscaping product so you can easily compare!

A) "The Look" - Aesthetics and Appearance

Stamped Concrete

From a distance, the surface looks good, but close up it usually looks artificial. And, because the material is rigid, it requires expansion joints, which take away from the realistic look of many patterns. The concrete "slab" surface requires that unsightly expansion joints be utilized at a minimum of every 10-foot intervals and every change of direction. The patterns that are stamped into this surface can look nice if properly colored/pigmented. Also, they can be slippery when wet.

Interlocking Concrete Tumbled Pavers

Wide range of man-made colors, patterns and textures.

Bricks

Mostly brick red, red brown colors and basically one shape is available.

Cobblestone/Belgian Block

"Old World" look and feel, yet more informal. Uneven surface makes walking hazardous.

Flagstone

A classic "Old World" look, however, the colors are limited, mainly darker tones and in gray and green colors. Because of naturally occurring metal content, flagstone, like slate, will get hot!

Italian Terra Cotta

The "real" terra cotta is a reddish color and can be either cut or tumbled in brick or geometric type shapes. Terra Cotta can be seen on the streets of Florence, Italy for hundreds of years and give that "Old World" warmth and appearance.

Gothicstone Pavers®

Beautiful, elegant, "Old World" look. Each travertine color has many variations that enhance the beauty of your outdoor space. Because they are natural, their color options are many and they exude a "timeless" look that can fit any design concept. There is little to no space between the stones – **Gothicstone Pavers®** unlike other natural stone pavers, are cut on a marble tile line to exacting dimensions as opposed to interlocking concrete pavers, that are poured in a mold, and subsequently shrink to approximate dimensions when the water evaporates. Extensive color, size and pattern options give the homeowner, designer or contractor the ability to coordinate with any style or motif. **Gothicstone** can cut the pavers up to 48" x 48". **Gothicstone Pavers®** can actually become the foundation of a design that can include pool coping,

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steps, balustrades, columns, arches, fountains, and veneer in the exact same quarried stone. **Gothicstone Pavers®** are used in outdoor applications, but have sister tiles that match exactly, for indoor applications such as kitchen floors and countertops, sunrooms, entranceways, and more!

B) Durability

Stamped Concrete

Can deteriorate from salts used to de-ice. Once damaged, surface is virtually impossible to repair. Water can get in expansion joints and underneath slabs resulting in heaving and cracking during freeze/thaw.

Interlocking Concrete Tumbled Pavers

Resist cracking and damage from freeze/thaw because they are individual units rather than a slab. Stronger than ordinary stamped concrete. Must be sealed on a regular basis to keep from deteriorating.

Bricks

Salt, moss and/or mold can attack and deteriorate certain clay pavers.

Cobblestone/Belgian Block

Stone resists salts and cracking and is very durable in general.

Flagstone

Can deteriorate particularly in northern climates. Slate begins to flake off, crack and delaminate.

Italian Terra Cotta

Impruneta terra cotta is used as architectural building material around the world.

Gothicstone Pavers®

Conforming to ASTM (American Standard Society of Testing Materials) Standards, the **Gothicstone Paver®** is freeze/thaw compatible in all climates and in direct sunlight; the stone is comfortable to walk on in bare feet. There is nothing more durable than stone and nothing more beautiful than **Gothicstone Pavers®**. They stand up to nature's toughest tests with their strength, durability, and non-corrosive properties - they are superior to all man-made products. Environmentally friendly and aligned with all forms of Feng Shui, **Gothicstone Pavers®** have twice the strength of concrete (5000 PSI.) The stone took over 50,000,000 years to create so the paver's greater lifespan offers outstanding life cycle benefits. Should you somehow damage one, you can just pull it up and flip it over since it is 100% natural stone through and through. Once installed, **Gothicstone Pavers®** will outlast you and your children! Made of travertine, marble & limestone, just as the Coliseum in Rome, Pyramids of Egypt, and many buildings in D.C., the **Gothicstone Paver®** will stand the test of time for many lifetimes.

NOTE: All dry set pavers can be pulled up and replaced if necessary to access utilities that may need to be added or serviced, unlike stamped asphalt or concrete.

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C) Maintenance & Snow Removal

Stamped Concrete

Cracking will likely develop and colors are very difficult to match in repaired areas. Difficult to shovel snow. Plowing can damage concrete. If damaged, difficult to repair because the entire field must usually be replaced.

Interlocking Concrete Tumbled Pavers

Broken, stained or chipped pavers can be replaced, but poured concrete varies in color from lot to lot, as opposed to block to block, which can be a problem. Snow removal is easy due to the smooth surface with minimal space between pavers. Will degrade without regular sealing.

Bricks

Irregularities in surface make them apt to damage, and chipping at the edges. Rough surface can sometimes be very difficult for shoveling or plowing. Can require cleaning to keep moss growth under control.

Cobblestone/Belgian Block

Low quality stone can last for decades. Wide joints can encourage weeds and insect activity. Rough stone makes shoveling and plowing snow extremely difficult.

Flagstone

Maintenance includes the occasional masonry repointing. Irregular sizing can make shoveling and snow plowing difficult. Delaminating due to freeze-thaw may require that stone be replaced.

Italian Terra Cotta

No maintenance, whatsoever. No need to seal or otherwise treat in any way. Should a stain occur, it will naturally wash out in a short time. Smooth surface, with little cracks to catch shovel or other tools.

Gothicstone Pavers®

No maintenance, whatsoever when dry-set. No need to seal or otherwise treat in any way. Should a stain occur, it will naturally wash out (push through the stone) over time from rain. Like other unit pavers, damaged pieces (would take extreme abuse to do so) can be pulled up and replaced. Because of strict sizing – paver both rectified and calibrated, the result is a smooth surface, with little or no cracks to catch shovel or other tools.

D) Installation Process

Stamped Concrete

Must be installed with special equipment and surface colorants and sealers are used to finish the job. Homeowner cannot install. Requires expansion joints at regular intervals.

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Interlocking Concrete Tumbled Pavers

The process for this product's installation is called Dry-Set (Sand-Set) where the materials are a stone base, bedding of sand, edge restraints and a separation fabric. This process is ready for use immediately after installation, but it is recommended that they be sealed so they don't deteriorate as quickly or stain as readily.

Bricks

Concrete base usually required which can increase cost. Unreliable dimensions can sometimes make units slow to install and hard to maintain straight or even patterns and lines. Homeowner can install with some degree of proficiency.

Flagstone

Much more difficult to install due to the irregular shape, and more importantly, irregular thickness, but can be installed by homeowner.

Cobblestone/Belgian Block

Each unit must be tediously hand fitted together. Homeowner can install with difficulty.

Italian Terra Cotta Pavers

Installation process is the same for Gothicstone Pavers® and Interlocking Concrete Tumbled Pavers - Dry-Set in Sand.

Gothicstone Pavers®

The Installation process recommended for the **Gothicstone Pavers®** is the same as Interlocking Concrete Tumbled Pavers - Dry-Set (Sand-Set). The fact that **Gothicstone Pavers®** are cut into blocks of stone exactly to size (both rectified and calibrated to a 1mm tolerance) reduces installation time, therefore reducing installation cost. This fact also gives you the choice of filling the stone joints as they are minimum...there is no need because the stones butt up against each other so tightly.

So...now that you have a better idea about your options and their strengths and weaknesses we will now discuss cost. We will focus on pavers in our cost comparison but will give you a summary of the costs of the other hardscaping options.

II. Cost Comparison: Man-made Pavers Vs. Natural Stone Pavers!

When installing pavers, there are two main components that make up the total cost of ownership: the installation and the product cost. The cost of installation can range anywhere from \$3.50 - \$18.00 per square foot*. Many think because the material costs twice as much, the price of ownership doubles...this is not the case. The chart below

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demonstrates the difference in total price between your different Paver options. Prices used reflect those of the Northeast USA.

Product	Cost per sq. ft.	Sq. Ft.	Installation Price	Total Price	Difference
Interlocking Concrete Tumbled Pavers	\$4.50	600	\$18.00	\$13,500.00	2%
Bricks	\$3.50	600	\$12.00	\$9,300.00	-42%
Cobblestone / Belgian Block (7x4x10)	\$7.00	600	\$14.00	\$12,600.00	-5%
Flagstone	\$6.00	600	\$18.00	\$14,400.00	8%
Gothicstone Tumbled Natural Stone Pavers	\$3.99	600	\$18.00	\$13,194.00	0%

NOTE: Chart reflects the total cost of ownership when installing various paver technologies against the total cost of installing The Gothicstone Pavers. As you can see, Gothicstone Pavers cost about the same as interlocking concrete tumbled pavers.

*Installation prices can vary enormously from region to region.

III. Guide to the Dry-Set in Sand Process for Paver Installation:

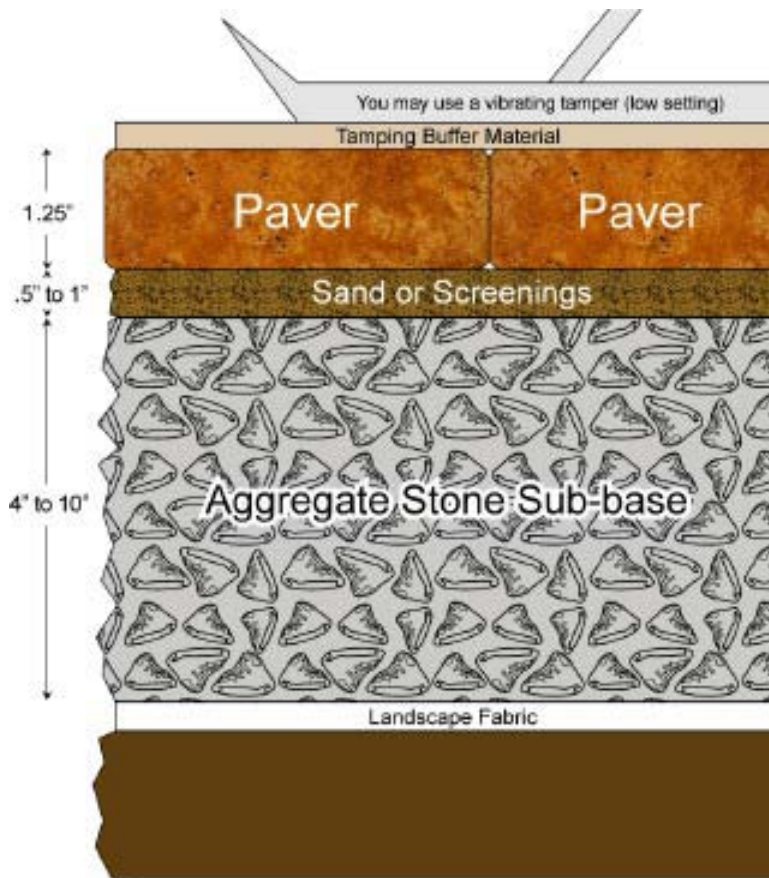
While you can install pavers on your own, we highly recommend that you consult a professional. While the **Gothicstone Paver** may be wet-set over a slab, they are best installed in a dry-set fashion (bed of crushed stone/sand) like any other paver. Whether you decide to install your pavers or hire a professional, we believe that the more knowledge you have, the better consumer you are, and that means that you will be able to ask the right questions when hiring a professional so that you get the best. Please consult our website for a list of installers that we recommend.

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Important: consult your local hardscaping professional in your area before installation.

IV. More Details About Gothicstone Pavers®

Colors: We offer 25+ Different Stones for a full color palette!

Some of the standard Gothicstone Pavers® colors available.

- Porcini Travertine – a blend of black, gold, browns and grays – one of our most popular colors!
- Latte Travertine - a blend of cream, noce and some blue in a serpentine pattern through the stone.
- Apricot Blend - a blend of golden sienna colors from light to dark gold with a hint of brown running throughout the stone. This stone truly looks ancient and "old world"!
- Cream Travertine - antique white in color, has little variation. Great for those areas where you want to blend with everything!
- Noce Travertine - walnut in color, has high variation in texture and color (range from light brownish to darker brown). Fantastic mix of lighter and darker shades - you really see the natural pattern of the stone in this color! We have 5 different Noce colors in our product line!

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Many other colors are available i.e.: Peach, Pink, Blue, Sand, Silver Gray, White, Brown, Red, etc.

Sizes:

Pavers available in sizes from 2" x 8" and 4" x 4" up to 48" x 48". **Gothicstone** can custom cut for a specific project or application. At **The Gothicstone Collection** the French Pattern is standard: 8x8, 8x16, 16x16, and 16x24 in 3cm (1 ¼") thickness.

Patterns:

Because we offer pavers in an array of sizes, including custom sizes, the patterns available to you are endless. The most common, at **The Gothicstone Collection** is the French Pattern in a selection of 8x8, 8x16, 16x16, and 16x24 pieces. The set consists of (4) pieces of 8x8, (4) pieces of 16x16, (2) pieces of 8x16, (2) pieces of 16x24 and each set is 16 square feet. We also offer the 6"x 12" honed and chiseled in an array of colors. The Roman Pattern made up of 6"x6" 6x12" and 12"x12" pavers is also very popular.

Other Products:

Gothicstone offers complimenting products for all your hardscaping needs: pool coping, steps, columns, balusters, pier / wall caps, curbs, split-face veneer, fountains, fireplaces, paver planking, tile, mosaics, slabs, countertops and cut-to-size. CAD submittals will be quoted.

Gothicstone Solar Light Paver - 8"x 8" x 2" clear silicon-boron glass paver fully encapsulating 16 high-tech solar collectors with White, Blue, Green, Yellow or Red LED illumination, lasts over 100,000 hours, waterproof, no wiring, can be driven over.

V. Why Choose GOTHICSTONE Pavers?

Important Factors to Consider with Gothicstone Natural Stone Pavers:

- Stay cool underfoot even in direct sunlight
- Calibrated and rectified with 1mm tolerance for easier installation
- High co-efficient of friction for a non-slip surface
- Freeze-thaw compatible in all climates
- Twice the strength of concrete
- No maintenance (no need to seal or coat when dry-set)
- Don't scuff or degrade
- Timeless Beauty - great looking even after years of use!
- They're gorgeous!

Selection/Value:

Natural travertine, limestone and marble Pavers are natural stone pavers quarried in the

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Turkish and Tuscan mountains and cut to size in paver thickness. Travertine, limestone and marble are the same timeless materials used for building construction around the world for centuries. The Pyramids of Egypt and many of our state buildings in our capitol of Washington, D.C. are faced with these same materials, because they can stand the test of time and because of their timeless beauty.

The Gothicstone Collection offers exclusive and unique product offerings with over 300 selections of travertine, including tile, pool coping, wall & pier caps, step treads, split-face ultra-thin veneer and dimensional wall systems, columns, balustrades, fountains, fireplaces, countertops and sinks, etc. Not all natural stone is created equal - after years of developing relationships with our quarries, we are able to provide you with highest quality products available.

What Our Customers Have to Say!

"Very European looking. I love them. They are great. All my neighbors are jealous." It is cool underfoot too. This is great for me with a new baby on the way!"

Mrs. O, from France now living in King of Prussia, Pa.

"I tried to stain the pavers with wine and left it overnight, but the rain took it right out!"
Susan Brady, Malvern, PA.

"When I walked in there and saw the stones my heart said "Yes" They carried me back to long ago to where people used the things of the earth to make things beautiful! I want them!"

Mrs. K, Yoga Instructor, Wynnewood, Pa.

"I am quite a talker, but when I walked into the Gothicstone Tile Gallery, I was speechless. I know it is hard to believe, but the experience of seeing these stones was sensual. All I wanted to do was go close to them, touch them, run my hands across them and stare at the beauty and wonder of the majesty of the work of nature's paint brush. I was awed!"

Mrs. K, Artist & Business Owner, King of Prussia, Pa.

If you have any other comments, questions or concerns please contact
The Gothicstone Collection at 866-975-0234 or www.gothicstone.com

CONCRETE PAVERS vs. NATURAL STONE PAVERS? YOU DECIDE

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