
Overview

This standard is one of six which covers installation of the various forms of hard-standing surfaces that are used within the landscaping industries.

This standard is targeted at operatives working under limited supervision and focuses on the skills required to both understand the structure and to undertake the installation of hard surfaces while working to specifications.

This standard covers the installation of rigid block surfaces. You will be expected to understand the impact of the installation on the immediate environment, and the impact of the environment on the structure.

**Performance
criteria**

You must be able to:

- P1 assess the risks associated with the site and the proposed work
- P2 select, prepare, use and maintain tools and equipment that are appropriate for the work safely and effectively
- P3 keep damage, unnecessary waste, unwanted impact on the environment and pollution to a minimum
- P4 set out for line and level
- P5 place and prepare a suitable laying course
- P6 lay blocks by hand to a suitable pattern
- P7 check completed surface for compliance and rectify any problems
- P8 cut-in blocks to required standard
- P9 fill and point joints to required finish
- P10 maintain a clean surface, free from cement or mortar stains
- P11 keep the site in a clean and tidy condition
- P12 clean and store tools and equipment promptly and securely
- P13 protect working areas effectively against weather and use until they are in a suitable condition
- P14 leave the site safe, tidy and suitable for intended use
- P15 maintain effective working relations with relevant people throughout
- P16 carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and company policies

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the weather conditions that are appropriate for installation
- K2 how to carry out a risk assessment for installation and decide on safe working methods
- K3 how to interpret specifications
- K4 how to measure to ensure work is within tolerances
- K5 how falls, lines and levels are determined and set out
- K6 how to select and prepare the correct tools and equipment for the task, including PPE and RPE
- K7 how to use, maintain, clean and store the required tools and equipment correctly
- K8 use of cutting tools including splitter, saw, and trimming tools
- K9 the importance of dust-suppression and RPE when using a cut-off saw
- K10 the importance of edge restraints
- K11 how to calculate the quantity of paving materials required
- K12 how paving materials should be stored on site, how they are delivered to the laying face, and how they are positioned for the laying operative
- K13 the range of blocks available and their suitable applications
- K14 how a rigid laying course is prepared, the working life of the bed material, and the importance of not preparing too large an area in advance of the laying face
- K15 the range of block patterns commonly used on site, their relative strengths and weaknesses, and how they are established
- K16 the importance of mixing and randomising blocks from three or more packs prior to laying
- K17 how surfaces are continuously checked for compliance to line, level, joint width and block competence during the laying process
- K18 how cutting-in is achieved following the principles of minimum block size and inboard cutting techniques
- K19 the importance of using the correct jointing material and its role in the performance of the completed surface
- K20 the range of jointing materials available, how they are prepared, their working life, and how they are used within rigid surfaces
- K21 the importance of maintaining a clean and stain-free surface
- K22 removal and replacement of defective blocks
- K23 how surfaces are continuously checked for compliance to line, level, joint width and material competence during the laying process
- K24 the importance of final compliance checks

Knowledge and understanding

K25 your responsibilities under current environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and company policies

Glossary

Instructions: verbal or written.

Specifications: drawings, schedules, method statements, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), manufacturers' guidelines.

PPE: Personal Protective Equipment.

RPE: Respiratory Protective Equipment.

Tools and equipment:

- hand tools such as floats and trowels, brick/scutch hammers, paving hammer/maul/mallet, block extractor, alignment bar, string lines, line pins
- pointing/jointing tools and surface cleaning equipment
- guillotine splitters
- cut-off saws
- appropriate PPE and RPE

Construction tasks:

- block laying
- cutting-in
- compaction
- compliance checks
- jointing
- lift and repair

Materials:

- conventional concrete blocks
- conventional clay blocks

Block patterns:

- Stretcher/running bond
- 90° herringbone
- 45° herringbone
- basketweave

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