Although *Square One Stone* only supplies natural stone products, we are constantly approached with various questions pertaining to installation. By popular demand, we decided to answer a few frequently asked questions to help assist our customers with the installation process. Here you go, guys!

Existing Pool or Patio Deck

- **Can you use natural stone over an existing pool deck?**
  - The existing deck acts as the “base” or foundation for the pavers, similar to a crushed road rock base.
- **Can you sand-set on existing deck? How thick should the stone be?**
  - Yes, you can sand-set on an existing deck. You mud-set the border and then float the stone on a thin ½” to 1” layer of screening sand.
  - The recommended thickness is a 1.25” paver.
- **What if I have an elevation issue with windows or stairs?**
  - Often there are elevation issues when a home’s open patio has been enclosed or when sliders are at deck level.
  - *Square One Stone* stocks products in certain thicknesses to assist with these issues.
- **Can you mud-set? Would there be any issues?**
  - Yes, you can mud-set (mortar-set) the pavers on an existing deck. The choice whether to use a mud-set or thin-set is up to the contractor. Whichever method they choose to select is not a requirement of the stone; in fact, how well the adherent holds up to the weather is more of the issue if anything.
  - Mud-setting can be an issue should the concrete pad ever crack. The crack will transfer up through the stone and cannot be repaired. Additionally, if any repairs need to be made to the pipes under the slab, the stone will also have to be cut and replaced.

Driveway: Residential

- **Which Square One Stone products are typically suitable for driveways based on standard conditions?**
  - **Sand-Set:** Travertine, Marble, Limestone
    - Up to 12”x12” in size with 1.25” in thickness
    - 12”x12” up to 24”x24” with 2 ¼” in thickness
  - **Mud-Set:** Travertine, Marble, Limestone
    - Any size with a 1” in thickness
    - **Assuming proper installation—no voids in setting bed.**
- **Can you sand-set a residential driveway?**
  - As with any paver, brick or stone, the installer must use the proper sub-base (road rock or other as required by code) and the pavers must be installed in an interlocking pattern. Unfortunately, no stone product can make up for a bad installation job. Therefore, *Square One Stone* cannot guarantee the product on the driveway.
- **Does the homeowner need to remove the old concrete driveway first?**
- Removal of the old concrete driveway is not required by the attributes of the **Square One Stone**. It is a preference of the installer and often a function of elevation issues.

**Driveway: Commercial**

- **Does Square One Stone have any product suitable for commercial driveways?**
  - As always, the strength of the paver has a direct relationship with the quality of installation. This is especially true in a commercial driveway application. **Square One Stone** currently has various products to offer to the commercial market with size and thickness dependent upon application.

**General Installation Tips**

- **Is there a difference between sand-setting brick pavers and stone?**
  - There is no significant difference with the process of sand-setting stone versus concrete pavers. The only real difference is that the installer needs to be more exact (level) in his base prep because you cannot use a compactor on the stone the way you can with concrete.

- **Should you use road rock base? How thick should the base be?**
  - The use of road rock base is dependent on local code and the contractor’s preference. If code allows and the contractor is comfortable with a compacted dirt bed for brick pavers, then it is sufficient for stone pavers. If road rock is required or preferred, code or preference thickness for brick pavers is again sufficient for stone. In general, a 4” base with a 1 ½” – 2” course layer is sufficient.

- **How thick should the sand base be?**
  - The sand base of leveling sand (course sand) is no different than that of code or preference for brick pavers, which is usually 1 ½” thick.

- **How close should the pavers be to each other?**
  - The pavers are typically butted up tight against each other.

- **Which kind of sand do you use once the pavers are installed to fill the cracks?**
  - Typically, fine silica is used to fill the cracks.

- **Can you grout the cracks on a sand-set bed?**
  - You can, but it is definitely not recommended. The grout is brittle and will crack with any movement of the paver. However, there is a polymer product available that when wet, becomes soft and adheres to itself. When dry, the polymer product is stiff and will assist in preventing ants or weeds from protruding from the cracks between the pavers.

- **What are footers? How are they used as borders?**
  - On a new sand-set deck, the pavers need to be held in place by some type of “footer” mechanism. The two most popular ways are the **mud edge** and a **true footer**.
    - **Mud Edge**
      - Consists of pouring a thick mortar/mud band along the edge of the paver deck. This mud hardens and acts as a “wall” to hold the pavers in place.
      - It is cheaper than an actual footer but is not as aesthetically appealing.
      - It restricts the grass from growing up to the edge of the deck. If mulch or pebbles are used, it allows them to “slide” away from the deck edge.
    - **True Footer**
      - Better alternative
      - Actual mini-footer dug in a trench
      - 4”x6” footer is sufficient
        - However, as always, the bigger, the better.
• The footer should always conform to code if there is one.
• Often, the border stone paver will hang over or be larger than the footer. It will be partly supported by the sand-set area. If installed correctly, this is not an issue.

• **If a footer is used, can paver that is larger than the footer be used for the border or can you bring the actual pattern out to the footer?**
  • In essence, the outside border or pieces will be supported in part by the footer and in part by the sand. If installed correctly, this is okay.

• **What size product do we suggest for borders?**
  • Use of borders or specific sizes is dependent upon the customer’s or contractor’s personal preference and is not a function of the stone.

• **How much waste do we need to add to our numbers prior to ordering?**
  • Since TRAVERTINE (Gold-Oxford-Walnut-Silver) can vary quite significantly from stone to stone and some pieces can be overly-pitted, a 12% to 15% cuts and waste factor is suggested. Since MARBLE (Pearl-Everest-Glacier-Delano-Tahoe) and GRANITE are usually more consistent, a waste factor of 10% to 12% is usually sufficient.

**Additional Installation Tips**

• The installer should ALWAYS open and pull from several crates so they blend the stones nicely as they lay them down.
• Off-set patterns are better than those where four corners meet because of the nature of the tumbled corners.