

Azpects 

EASYJoint

UK Version

Contains detail which is specific to UK construction methods.
If operating in North America, refer to the North American version.

Versión inglesa

Contiene detalles que son específicos de métodos de construcción del Reino Unido.
Si opera en América del Norte, refiérase a la versión norteamericana.

Version anglaise

Contient des détails spécifiques à méthodes de construction au Royaume-Uni.
Si vous opérez en Amérique du Nord, reportez-vous au version Nord-Américaine.



How to use

INSTRUCTIONS & GUIDANCE FOR PEDESTRIAN PAVING AREAS



EASYJoint Tub Insert V14



Before using **EASYJoint** read **all** of these instructions, visit www.azpects.co.uk and watch the video

Pre-Installation Checks

EASYJoint is designed for use on a free draining site. Before using, check the site conditions are suitable for the use of EASYJoint, which is a permeable jointing solution (see below).

Site Conditions

IMPORTANT: The project's ground conditions must be free draining. If the area stays naturally wet and rarely dries out, or if there is a high water table, then EASYJoint **should not be used**.

EASYJoint cures gradually on contact with air, so, if the paving base never or rarely dries, nor will the bottom of the joints, resulting in joint failure. If the joints cannot gain full exposure to air, sometimes the top will crust over (from evaporation) but the lower section of the joint may not cure properly. Additionally, ensure the project has a suitable "fall" to allow surface water to drain away.

Base Mix

For a project to be free draining, both the bedding and sub-base must be porous. To achieve this, assuming a permeable sub-base, where a mortar bedding is used it should be no stronger than 6 parts sharp sand to 1 part cement (6:1). This will ensure good drainage and is perfectly adequate for pedestrian areas. If water is retained in the joint for long periods, rather than passing through, the joint may fail.

Weather Conditions. When working on a free draining, permeable project, EASYJoint can be applied in virtually all weather conditions. However, in freezing conditions, or in falling temperatures below 3°C, refer to the website for guidance. If heavy or prolonged rain is forecast, ideally wait for drier conditions, as heavy rain could disturb the sand particles that make up EASYJoint before it cures hard, giving an uneven texture. Prolonged rain will also extend the curing process. See www.azpects.co.uk for more information.



Suitable Paving Types. EASYJoint can be used with all paving types, subject to the minimum 3mm joint width (see section on Joint Dimensions). It is, therefore, **NOT** suitable for the UK's traditional block paving, where the joint width is typically 1-1.5mm.

Some paving types need additional attention before and during the use of EASYJoint. In particular, please be aware of the information supplied elsewhere in this guide about sensitive natural stone types and paving with chamfered edges ('V' shaped joints).

EASYJoint Colours. There are various colours to choose from. However, EASYJoint is made from naturally sourced products and shades may vary, so always select tubs with the same batch number to complete a project. The name of the colour and the colour of the lid are for identification purposes only and are not a representation of the actual colour of the contents. Colour samples are normally available from your supplier and can also be seen in our literature and on our website. To ensure the colour meets your requirements, test a small area before spreading out the whole tub.

Repointing Old Paving. (Not suitable for use on chamfered sided paving). Clean out the old jointing product completely to create the correct joint size (see section on Joint Dimensions). Do not use EASYJoint if the correct and fully clean joint size cannot be obtained. Be aware of the information supplied about site conditions and the porosity of the base and ground conditions. If there is uncertainty about either of these factors, **do not use** EASYJoint. In such instances, **EASYJoint PRO** may be a viable alternative - visit the Azpects website for more information.

Joint Dimensions.

Minimum width: 3mm, minimum depth: 20mm.

There is no maximum width but minimum depth must be achieved.

When working with thin paving material, it is difficult to achieve the correct depth. In such cases, to achieve the required depth, create a channel in the base material by running the tip of a trowel around the exposed edges of each paver.

Ensure that at least the minimum gap width is maintained throughout the full depth of the paving.





Quick Installation Guide

Users are **strongly advised** to watch the video demonstration available on the Aspects website prior to working with EASYJoint. The EASYJoint section of this comprehensive website provides a wealth of useful information with detailed instructions.

Before starting the job, please also read the **General Information & Precautions** elsewhere in this leaflet.



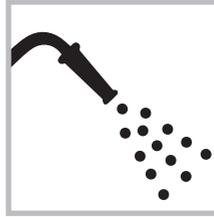
1
WEATHER

EASYJoint can be applied in virtually all weather conditions. However, read the "Weather Conditions" note on page 1



2
TOOLS

Squeegee or stiff broom
Hose/water supply



3
PRE-SOAK THE AREA

The wetter the better



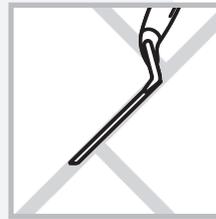
4
POUR

Open the tub and empty contents on to the paving and add water to form a slurry



5
SWEEP & RINSE

Using the broom/squeegee sweep the **EASYJoint** across the paving using a spray of water to assist in filling the joints. Any soft lumps of compound can be easily broken down but if the lump is solid, please discard.



6
FINISH

We recommend that the joints are ironed for a more aesthetically pleasing finish and improved structural integrity



Concrete Paving with a Chamfered Edge (new installations only)

Some concrete paving is made in moulds and has chamfered edges. In such cases, when two paving slabs are laid side by side a “V” shaped gap is formed, wider at the top than at the bottom. This gap shape can be the most challenging to work with and we recommend you carefully follow the instructions below.

Maintain the Width of Joint Throughout. Maintain at least a 3mm gap width throughout the depth of the paving material. Never have this type of paving butted together. See photograph below.

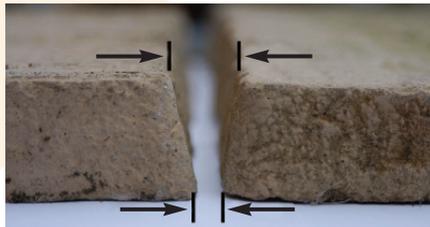
Lock in the Joint. An irregular “V” shaped joint means that any type of filler, EASYJoint included, will have difficulty staying in place.

To form a stable joint when laying the paving, draw the tip of your trowel along the bottom edge of each slab so that a small gap forms along and under the paving edge. EASYJoint will flow into the gap and, when set, will be locked into place. See diagram below.

To further aid this, “point” or “strike” the joint; do not leave it textured. This ensures the top of the filler is below the top rounded edge of the paving and helps it adhere to the base and sides of the paving material.

Do Not Overfill the Joint. As with all types of paving, never overfill the joint. This is particularly important if the paving has a “rounded” top edge. The filler should be kept below the start of the “rounding”. See diagram below.

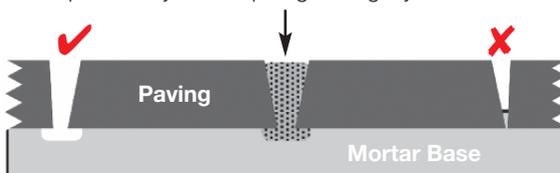
Joint Width
Top minimum 3mm



Bottom minimum 3mm

Lock in the joint

Fill the EASYJoint to just below the surface of the paving, particularly if the top edge is slightly rounded



Create a small gap under the edge of each slab in order to “lock” the EASYJoint under the paver



General Information & Precautions

If you are reading this AFTER you have used EASYJoint, it is too late!

Site Conditions. The site conditions must be appropriate for use. Refer to page 1.

Use Plenty of Water. It cannot be overly stressed to use plenty of water before, during and after the application of EASYJoint.

Sensitive Paving Materials. Some types of natural stone, eg, Granite, Black Limestone and Sandstone, can be very sensitive and susceptible to marking from the natural environment, from mortar used for the base or joints and from specialist joint fillers. If unsure, refer to the stone supplier for advice on the sensitivity of the particular stone, for even using liberal amounts of water as demanded elsewhere in these instructions may not be enough to prevent marking. To greatly diminish the possibility of marking these types of stone, it is strongly recommended to seal the paving with a breathable sealant, preferably before installation but certainly prior to jointing. A breathable sealer will provide protection both during the jointing process and afterwards. It will also allow any efflorescence (white deposits caused by natural salts) present in the base and substrate to pass through the paving material and, over time, dissipate into the atmosphere. This is a problem that is particularly prevalent in Black Limestone and Granite and will regularly appear after installation. **It is not caused by the use of EASYJoint.** More information on these issues can be found on the Azpects website. Water-based breathable sealants can be found in the EASYSeal Range on the Azpects website; they are ideal for this purpose.

Working with Porcelain Paving. The same rules apply when working with porcelain paving tiles as with working with stone or concrete. The base on which the porcelain is laid **must be able to drain..** If the base is non-permeable then **EASYJoint Pro** or **EASYGrout** should be used. See the Azpects website for more information.

Less water is needed when applying EASYJoint to porcelain paving as there is little risk of residue staining however, users will find that a small amount of water, added to form it into a slurry, will make it easier for the operator to fill the joints properly. When applying to porcelain, to ensure an effective joint, the operator **MUST** iron the joint to further aid compaction of the compound.

Note on Compaction. Whilst not a necessity, a stronger, smoother and more durable joint is achieved if the product is compacted. Compaction forces out air and water which helps the joint harden quicker.

EASYJoint is Permeable. This is a positive environmental attribute but, over time, there may be changes in the appearance of the joint. Dirty surface water passing through the joint can result in discolouration. This is entirely natural; it is not a fault, and it will not impair the integrity of the product. The porous nature of the joint also allows algae and fungal growth to develop. Both of these issues can be remedied with the cautious use of a light pressure washer once a year, using a “fan” type nozzle no closer than 150mm from the surface. This will safely clean the joints of dirt and spore growth. More persistent algae/fungal growth can be tackled with an appropriate product from the EASYCare range. Do not use a pressure washer on the paving for at least 4 weeks after applying EASYJoint.

EASYJoint is a joint filler and like other types of joint fillers it is not designed to hold the paving together. If the paving moves, expect to see separation between the paving units. EASYJoint has not failed. AZPECTS accepts no responsibility for such occurrences.



General Information & Precautions (Continued)

Clean-up. Work cleanly, clearing both the sand grains and the binding oil from the surface as you go. Keep washing until the “rainbow effect” oily water is no longer evident. Once EASYJoint has set hard in the joints, sweep the paving with a stiff broom, diagonally to the joints, to remove any final traces of compound, especially along the edges of “struck” joints. Do not use the same broom that was used in the application process. Unused but opened EASYJoint can be saved for later use by pouring it back into the tub (not in the bag) and covering it with at least 50mm of water. The product should remain usable for many months.

Setting Times. In dry conditions and warm to moderate temperatures and humidity, EASYJoint should be firm enough to walk on within 24 hours and will cure very hard within a few days. Cold and wet conditions increases the setting time considerably. Freezing weather will cause the process to virtually cease and it can take many days for the joints to set hard. However EASYJoint will eventually set and the joints’ integrity will not have impaired in any way. Whilst EASYJoint remains wet, either from the application procedure or through rainfall, the curing process will be suspended. Prolonged rainfall or several intermittent showers will considerably extend the setting times. Again, this will not affect the final integrity of the product provided the water can drain away and so allow even curing throughout the joints (as previously explained).

Sealing. EASYJoint can be sealed but it is recommended not to apply any type of sealer over the joint for at least a month after it has set hard. Depending on the type of sealant used, EASYJoint may or may not remain permeable.

Footwear Caution. The soles of footwear may pick up some EASYJoint during application. Clean them before walking across dried (or drying) paving to avoid leaving “footmarks”. For similar reasons, do not use the same broom that was used to apply the EASYJoint to clear the surface afterwards; it will be contaminated and may leave marks.

Applying EASYJoint Without Water. Installers are strongly advised to apply EASYJoint using the standard method as described in these instructions wherever possible. However, there are circumstances where this method may not be suitable, such as when using the compound in freezing conditions or in temperatures of 3°C and falling. When applying without water, the risk of residue staining is higher. Refer to the Azepts website for more guidance.

Strength. The compressive strength of EASYJoint is such that it will adequately take the downward forces exerted by pedestrians and light domestic vehicles. However, it is not recommended for use on driveways due to the types of sub-base and bedding mortar used which generally makes them impermeable.

Domestic Vehicular Driveways. Most vehicular drives are constructed with a strong foundation and bedding mix, which will make it less, if not completely, impermeable. EASYJoint is, therefore, not suitable for this application and we recommend the use of EASYJoint PRO instead. PRO is specifically designed for use on driveways and areas with poor drainage. Please refer to page 1 for suitable paving types.



Legal Disclaimers

1. User's Responsibility. The company cannot be aware of all the applications and materials the product may be used with. It is the user's responsibility to determine suitability for use. If used in accordance with the instructions, the product should set hard and not affect the aesthetic properties of the material on which it is used, but no guarantee of this is given or implied. Neither the manufacturer nor supplier accepts any liability for; (a) the joint failing as a result of inherent site conditions, (b) any changes in the appearance of the paving resulting from the use of EASYJoint or (c) any visual or physical changes to the joint, whether naturally occurring or from the application of any other substance, i.e. cleaning products or protection coats. If in any doubt, test a sample before use. Refer to the Azpects website for more precautionary advice.

2. Colour. EASYJoint is a natural product and shades can vary - please refer to page 1 for further information on colours. It is strongly advised that you purchase enough product to complete your project, ensuring that the batch numbers match. The colour will also change with natural weathering - becoming dirty.

3. Marking on Paving. If incorrectly used with insufficient water to create a barrier between the paving and the EASYJoint using the wet application method, or with particularly sensitive stone if it has not been protected with an appropriate sealer before jointing, marking and discolouration may appear - in the form of blotches or freckle-like spots. This is entirely preventable by using the correct installation methods as described in these instructions and elsewhere in Azpects literature and on the Azpects website.

However, should this unfortunate circumstance arise, the user may take comfort in the fact that, over time (an unknown quantity because of the wide variance in the paving material, level of marking, ongoing weather conditions, etc.), such marking should fade and disappear.

4. Final Warning about the Base and Site Conditions. EASYJoint must be used on a free-draining base. If a strong and consequently impermeable base (such as concrete) and/or a strongly mixed bedding (5 parts or less sand to 1 part cement) is used, then, over time, the EASYJoint is likely to fail. No responsibility is taken by the manufacturer or supplier for such an occurrence.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Animals and Aquatic Life

- All animals should be kept away from the site during and immediately after application (whilst the EASYJoint is still soft and wet residue is on the surface).
- **When applying EASYJoint, do not allow contaminated water to run into fish or wildlife ponds as it MAY cause long lasting harmful effects to aquatic life.**
- Keep out of reach of children.
- Avoid release to the environment.
- Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/face protection.
- Do not get in eyes, on skin, or on clothing.

IF IN EYES: Rinse immediately with plenty of water for several minutes.

Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing.

If eye irritation persists get medical advice/attention.

IF ON SKIN: Wash with plenty of soap and water.

If skin irritation occurs get medical advice/attention



WARNING