

# Slate Paving - Mortar Method

## Using a Bond-Bridge

### Background

This guide has been produced by Bluesky Stone for customers looking to install their slate for a patio using the mortar method instead of adhesive (tiling method). This is a guide only and professional advice must be sought from your contractor if you require further advice as each project may have its own characteristics.

### Step 1: Install a solid base

- Please refer to our document entitled "How to Install a Solid Base" for further details

### Step 2: Bond-Bridge

- The slate is laid onto a thin bed of mortar over a solid base
- Make up the mortar 4:1 but add sufficient water to create a mix that is wet, that is the mortar is only just able to support rippling. A typical mix will use around 7-8 litres of water
- Spread the mortar using a wide notched trowel to create a corrugated bed to accept the paving unit.
- Slate is notoriously difficult to stick to mortar, but by using a bond bridge, you can be sure the slate will stay in place.
- Use liquid glue similar to PVA but referred to as SBR ([Styrene Butadiene Rubber](#)). It is much more adhesive than PVA. Available from a builder's merchant or DIY Store.
- Pour around half a cup of SBR into a bucket. Add a trowel full or two of cement powder and stir into the SBR to create a thick slurry paste. This is to be painted onto the underside of each slate tile just before it is laid onto the mortar (wet on wet contact).
- Carefully lift the slate into place and lower it into position (ensure it has been coated with SBR slurry on the underside as per notes above)
- Use a rubber mallet to carefully tap down to the required level
- Jointing - joints can be filled with a sand/cement mortar or external grade grout.

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