

# Recycled Plastic Pavers

We discard in excess of 33 million tons of plastic each year. Too much of it winds up in landfills and waterways where it might take centuries to break down. Happily, recycled plastic is used to make composite decking, and, more recently, patio and walkway tiles. As with recycled rubber and glass, manufacturing these products requires less energy than concrete or brick products.

The system shown here has long been used as a pervious, non-cracking solution for sidewalks. Made of 100% recycled materials, the 2-inch-thick, 24- by 30-inch pavers weigh 35 pounds each. Each is molded with channels that hold the pavers off the subsurface to facilitate drainage.

The tiles come with tabs into which you pound spikes to hold them in place. The tabs also hold the tiles apart for adequate drainage. In most areas a 4-inch trench with 2 inches of aggregate is an adequate substrate.



**Made of recycled plastic**, these 2 x 2½-ft. tiles from TERRECON®, Inc. are available in gray, blue, and a granite-like look. Tabs link the pavers together; legs promote drainage.

## Tools & Materials ▶

Safety glasses, gloves, ear protection	Hand compactor or vibrating plate compactor
Shovel	10-inch galvanized spikes
Hand dolly	2 x 4s for temporary edging
Broom	Jigsaw
Screed	Permeable base material
Hammer	Straightedge
¼-inch spacers	
4-foot level	
Recycled plastic pavers, (See Resources, page 236)	



**These thick interlocking pavers** each cover 5 sq. ft. They are used most often for walkways, but they can also be fitted into a patio shape that comes together quickly and allows good drainage through the gaps between pavers.

## How to Install a Plastic Paver Patio



**1 Prepare the subsurface** by digging down enough for a minimum of 2" of ¾" angular gravel plus a setting bed and allowing for the thickness of the pavers. Soak and compact the gravel, then add sand, and screed the surface smooth and level. See pages 122 to 125 for more information on preparing a permeable base.



**2 Tip the pavers** in place so the tabs connect as you lower the pieces. Use ¼" spacers in the joints for a clean look and to assure drainage. Keep the spacers in place until all pavers are installed. Do your best to level each paver as you set it in place.



**3 Make cutouts for trees** or other nonsquare items using a jigsaw. Use a circular saw guided by a straightedge to make straight cuts in the pavers. Don't be tempted to cut off the tabs around the outside edge—they help anchor the pavers and should be left in place.



**4 Pound in 10" spikes** through the center tab of each paver along the perimeter of the patio. The interlocking tabs hold the other pavers. Don't use more than one spike on any single paver edge.



**5 Backfill with soil**, stone, or concrete around the perimeter. The tabs are positioned low enough that they may be covered. You may also fill the gaps between pavers with chip rocks or other products that will not block drainage through the gaps.