

Hardscaping & Paver Department

How to Install Poly Sand (By Tina Kearney)

1. Check the weather. Ideally, it should not rain for 24 hours after application. 6-8 hours is the minimum, depending on temperature – the hotter it is, the shorter the set time will be and vice versa, the colder it is, the longer the set time will be. Products such as Gator Maxx have shorter set up times on certain applications. Outside temperature should never drop below 32 degrees Fahrenheit when installing poly sand.
2. Generously cut one of the corners of the bags open.
3. Pour poly sand out over the pavers. Each bag will cover approximately 85 square feet per bag although the coverage will vary depending on the size of the paver or joint.
4. Use a stiff bristle brush to push the sand into the joints.
5. Repeat until the entire area is done
6. Protect the pavers with a thick cloth such as burlap or use a plate compactor with a urethane pad to run over the pavers to tighten the poly sand down between the pavers. When installing large sized pavers or natural stone, do not compact with a compactor. Instead, push the sand in as well as you can with the brush.
7. After compacting, look for any areas where the poly sand looks deeply sunken or where it appears that there is not enough sand in the joints. Sweep in additional poly sand until you are satisfied that all the joints are filled but not overflowing.
8. Using a finer but firm push broom, sweep away as much of the excess poly sand that you can.

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How to Install Poly Sand (Continued)

9. Next take a leaf blower and walk slowly, working from one side to the other, blow off any leftover residue. This is important since the residue can leave a hazing that will have to be cleaned away later.
10. Once satisfied that all of the residue is removed, set a hose to a mist setting.
11. Working in areas no larger than 10' x10,' follow a three step process for wetting and activating the poly sand. There will be about 2-3 minutes between wettings.
12. For the first pass, walk the area slowly, holding the hose facing down at the pavers at about chest height (approxiametly 4' above patio height).
13. For the second pass, Return to beginning and now hold the hose at 2' above the surface (same mist setting) and hold hose facing pavers (moving at a slow but steady pace) allow the water to wet and rinse the pavers.
14. On the third pass, make sure to move past areas quickly if the water starts to pool in the joints continuing to hold the hose 2' above the paver surface. The idea is to wet the poly sand without oversaturating it.
15. If the steps above are followed, hazing should not be an issue. SRW Paver Clean is usually effective to remove light hazing. Heavy hazing will require a hot water pressure washer.