

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Build A Better Patio

(NAPSA)—When you get down to it, the key to a great patio is a firm foundation.



A strong foundation is important for patio projects.

For professional-looking results, start with a base layer designed for good drainage, topped with a fine bedding layer. The base layer should be coarse stones of varying sizes for stability. The bedding layer should be of finely ground stone, which holds pavers in place more securely than sand or soil.

“This two-step system will give homeowners great results for patios, walkways—even garden walls, barbecue stands, mailboxes and fences,” says David Jackson of Southdown, Inc., maker of YardRight Select Foundation Systems.

Jackson also offers these tips:

- Generally, a 3” layer of coarse stone, covered by a 1”–2” layer of fine crushed stone will provide a stable foundation. Exact requirements depend on soil stability and intended use. Some manufacturers, such as YardRight, print specific recommendations right on their bags.

- Planning pays off. Visualize how your patio should look. Select your pavers, measure and mark off the area according to paver manufacturer’s instructions.

Patio base products are available at lawn and garden centers, home improvement centers and hardware stores. For more information, call 1-800-526-1753.