

Garden Trends...where interior meets exterior



For the last 20 years Indian natural stone paving has dominated the UK paving market. However in recent years, Driven by the rising popularity of bi-fold doors and a desire for open plan living. A new import, Italian vitrified paving is starting to become more popular for use in the garden.

Vitrified paving is a robust and versatile paving material and is offered in a range of colours, textures and sizes. It is made using similar materials and techniques that internal porcelain tiles floor tiles are made out of. Only thicker for the UK climate. Quality importers of vitrified paving like Stonemarket and Marshalls have now settled on a 20mm thickness for outside.

The Stonemarket portfolio of vitrified products is extensive. The classic lucent collection has a gently riven texture in three attractive colours, Copper, Cotswold and Blue. The Gravity range has plenty of urban cool and is perfect for contemporary neutral schemes. The Knotwood range which perfectly recreates the colours and texture of wood planks. Has proved extremely popular with HBS customers over the last two years. Being vitrified, Knotwood has none of the technical issues of wood so will rot or warp.

'Many of our customers worry about algae growth, but require a cost effective and attractive solution' says Paul Curson, one of the directors at HBS. So this year we have decided to stock the Stonemarket Fortuna range. *'Being Vitrified paving, it absorbs little or no moisture allowing moss and algae little*

opportunity to grow' he continued *'This means hardly any maintenance is needed to keep your patio looking fantastic.'*

Due to the impervious nature of the vitrified paving it needs to be laid slightly differently to traditional sandstone and concrete. To help adhesion, a bonding slurry is added to the paving before bedding on to the mortar bed below. Vitrified also requires a narrow joint and you may want to consider employing an installer who has experience of laying product to tight joint tolerances.

If you are looking for some landscaping work to be undertaken give HBS a call or drop in to discuss your requirements. The yard is only 2 minutes from Biggleswade retail park with plenty of free parking. *'Trade and public are both welcome'* says Jake who is often the initial point of contact for paving enquiries *'we can also organise samples and provide FREE material quotes'.*

After all your inspiration and planning, finding the right installer is essential, as you will rely on their advice, product knowledge and workmanship to achieve the desired end result.

To help you make a more informed decision we can also help you find an installer. However as always we recommend that you obtain three quotes. Some of our customers are Marshalls registered and would have also made an investment in the specialist diamond cutting tool required. Along with knowledge of Marshalls/Stonemarket products. Vitrified paving may not take over the whole of the paving market just yet as depending on the theme of the garden and client budget.

Concrete and natural stone paving still have their own place in the hard landscaping material mix. However in future years. A robot may be mopping the patio like a kitchen floor and hoovering the artificial grass. Voice controlled by virtual assistant on our smartphone or smart speaker.



HBS HENLOW BUILDING SUPPLIES

HENLOW BUILDING SUPPLIES

Stratton Business Park, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire SG18 8QA

Telephone: 01767 312800

Website: www.henlowbuildingsupplies.co.uk