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How to lay a patio

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Materials Required

Slabs (15m²)
Type 2 MOT
Grit sand
Compound
Acrylic sealer

Tools Required

Small skip
Wheelbarrow
Cement mixer
Disc cutter
Suppressant
Compactor
Digging tools

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Step One: Access and setup



Remove any barriers to access

In the video, you can see Chris removing the gate, to the property, to create a clear path into the garden. Your property may have different access requirements but it's crucial, for this first step, to make sure that you can get all of your tools and materials into the build area.



Setup all of your tools, ahead of starting to lay the patio

Chris makes sure that he has prepared the site, by putting down a builder's tarp and then sets up the mixer before starting work on the patio.

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Step Two: Demolition



Demolish any obstructions to the new patio

Chris removes an old, garden wall by chiseling



Remove the demolished material

Use the wheelbarrow to take away the material and put it into the skip.

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Step Three: Removing the old patio



Lift the old patio slabs

Chris levers the old slabs from the old base and then throws the old slabs out into the skip.



Level out the old base

Chris uses a spade to create a level base, from the old sand, in order to create a flat surface for the new patio.

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Step Four: Cleaning up the edge



Remove the old edge

Chris takes out the old edge, to make way for the new 6" flag on edge. He uses the evolution disc cutter to take the old edge back to the fence.



Remove the spoil

Chris uses a spade to remove the spoil. The rule is to remove 6" from the top or until the ground becomes firm.

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Step Five: Quantities



Enough material for our base

The patio area, that Chris is working on, is 3mx4m. That means that we are working in an area of 12m². The minimum depth, of our base materials, is 100mm. To cover this area, to our minimum depth, we will need 1.2tonnes of MOT.

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Step Six: Rebuilding the flower beds



Use the old stones

Chris uses some mortar accelerator to help to speed up the process of rebuilding the flower beds. He uses the stones, from the previous demolition process, to rebuild the flower beds.



Spread the mortar

Chris spreads the mortar, between the stones, to rebuild the flower beds.

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Step Seven: Installing the Flag-On-Edge



Ensuring that the patio is level

To make sure that the patio drains into the garden (rather than towards the house) Chris uses a string line, which he checks is straight using a spirit level, tied across sticks.



Place the flag stones

Once the string line has been checked, Chris places the stones into the mortar and taps it down with a rubber mallet.

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Step Eight: Levelling the base



Create a wooden profile

In order to make sure that the patio is level and straight, Chris constructs a wooden profile for the base. The first step in this is to create stakes for the profile to attach to. He does this by sawing the wood into angled shapes.



Attach the frame to the stakes

After hammering-in the stakes and using a spirit level to make sure that they are level, Chris uses a drill to attach the pieces of wood to the stakes.

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Step Nine: Laying the type 2 MOT



Put down the first layer

Chris puts down a layer of type 2 MOT and spreads it to cover the entire area of the patio.



Compact the first layer

Chris uses the compactor to ensure that the first layer of type 2 MOT is completely level.

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Step Nine: Laying the type 2 MOT



Put down the second layer

Chris puts down another layer of type 2 MOT and uses a rake to level it out. He then uses a large plank to make sure that the layer is flush with the wooden profile he created earlier.



Add a layer of sharp sand

Chris places buckets of sharp sand on top of the 2 layers of type 2 MOT and then, once again, uses the compactor to ensure the whole thing is level.

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Step Ten: Laying the grit sand



Put down a layer of grit sand

Now we have put down all of our base, there are still some aggregates on the surface. This is a problem as we will be walking and kneeling on the base, which can disturb it. In order to lock in these aggregates, put down a layer of grit sand.



Compact the grit sand

Once the top layer of grit sand has been applied, use the compactor to make sure that everything is level.

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Step Eleven: Mixing the cement



Creating the cement mixture

Use a 5 to 1 mixture of cement to water and mix it in a bucket. Chris uses an additive to introduce air into the mixture.



Mixing the cement

Use the cement mixer to create the right consistency of cement for laying the slabs.

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Step Twelve: Laying the first flag



Put in the pegs

Chris uses a mallet to hammer in pegs to mark out where the patio will go. He uses a long straight edge and a spirit level to ensure that the pegs are level with the edge of the current path.



Lay the cement

Chris spreads the cement between the pegs. He then mixes 1 part SPR to 2 parts cement to create a slurry, which he coats onto the back of the flag stone. He then places the first flag onto the cement and taps it level (using a spirit level) with a rubber mallet.

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Step Thirteen: Laying the remaining slabs



Dry-lay the slabs first

Before putting any more cement down, Chris puts the patio slabs down on the dry surface to make sure that he is happy with the layout. He tries to avoid areas where the intersection of 2 slabs creates a cross. Once he's happy with the pattern, it's time to lay the rest of the slabs.



Finish laying the patio

Now that you are decided on the layout of the slabs, use the same technique that you used to lay the first slab to finish off the rest of the patio.

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Step Fourteen: Cleaning the patio



Brush the surface of the slabs

To prepare the patio for the jointing compound, it's necessary to clean off the surface of the patio. Use a brush to sweep any loose material from the top of the patio.



Sponge off the surface

Chris uses a pair of sponges and a hose to give the patio a good clean, ready for the jointing compound.

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Step Fifteen: Using the jointing compound



Filling the joints with compound

Open up the bag of jointing compound, pour it onto the slabs and then brush it into the joints. Chris then uses a jointer to smooth out the jointing compound, between the slabs.



Washing off the slabs

Once you have brushed jointing compound into all of the joints and then spoothed them out with the jointer, wash down the slabs. Be sure to just wash the slabs and try to avoid washing out any of the compound out of the joints.

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Step Sixteen: Sealing the patio



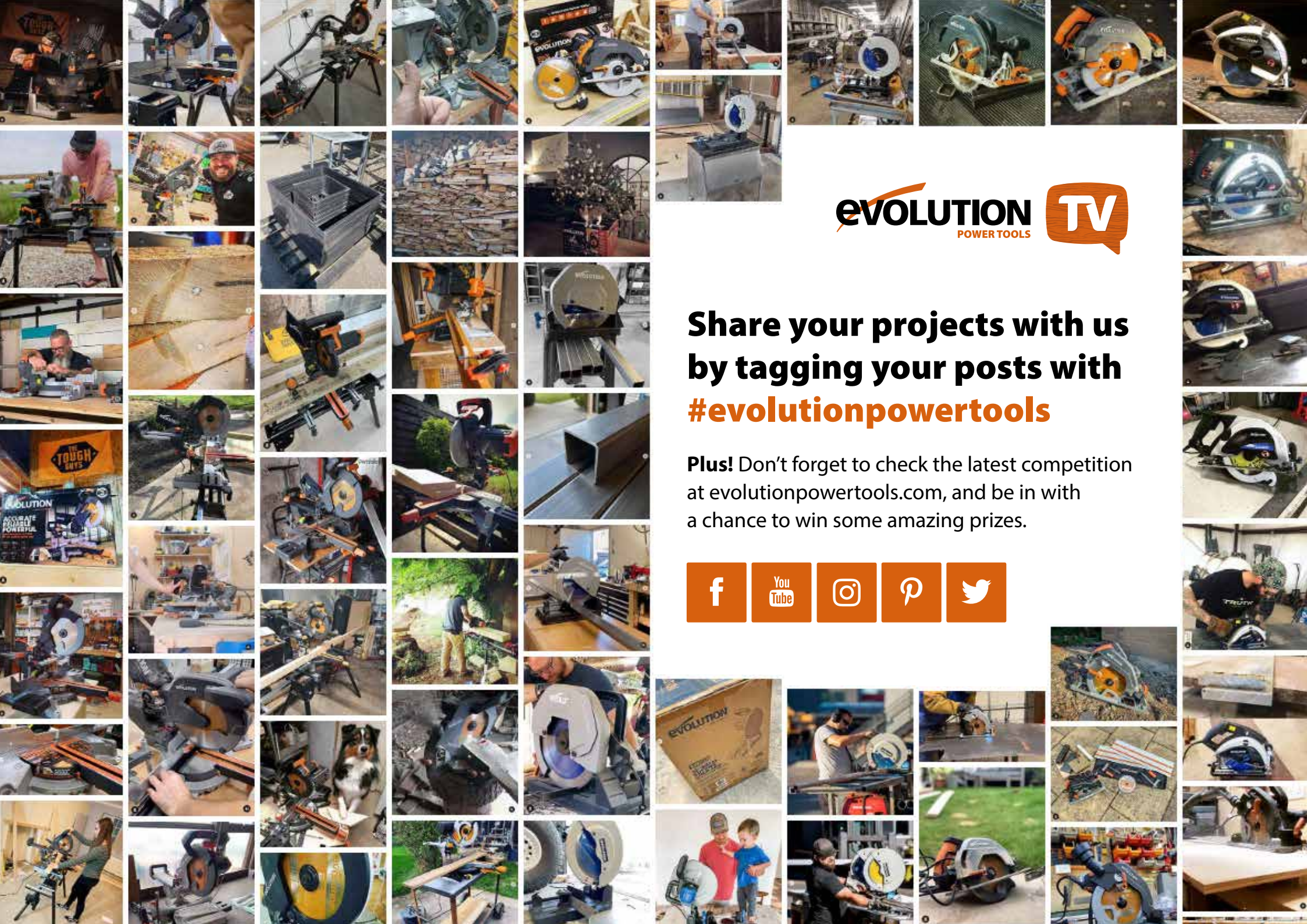
Spray the patio with a coat of sealer

Chris adds a bottle of sealer to the sprayer and then sprays down the patio.



Add the second coat of sealer

Chris waits an hour, after adding the first coat and then refills the spray bottle before covering the patio with a final coat of sealer.



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