

PLANNING · MATERIAL GUIDE

Driveway Materials Guide

Choosing the Right Driveway Surface for Your Property

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Foundation First — Compacted Base

Every durable driveway starts with a compacted base layer. Without it, all surface materials will shift, rut, and fail regardless of quality.

Limestone Flex Base (0"–3"): 4" compacted depth minimum for standard residential vehicles. 6" for driveways that handle trucks, trailers, or equipment over 10 tons. Compact in two lifts minimum.

Crushed Concrete Flexbase: comparable budget alternative for private, non-permitted driveways. Not acceptable for city/county inspected work.

Surface Options — Screened Rock & Millings

Screened Limestone Rock ($\frac{3}{4}$ " or 1"): 2" depth over compacted base. Attractive light-colored surface, good drainage, minimal dust. Budget range: \$8–14/sq ft installed.

Asphalt Millings: spread 4–6" in two compacted lifts — functions as both base and surface for lower-traffic driveways. Heat-binds under Texas sun. Dark color, low dust. Budget range: \$4–8/sq ft installed — roughly half the cost of screened rock over base.

Surface Options — DG, Gravel & Recycled

Decomposed Granite (0"–1"): compactable, natural tan appearance, permeable. Popular for xeriscape and rustic Texas driveways. Install 4" base + 2" DG topping.

Pea Gravel or River Rock: not recommended as a primary driveway surface — stones migrate and reduce traction. Best for accent borders and decorative zones adjacent to the driveway, not the driving surface itself.

Heavy-Use & Build Specifications

Heavy-use driveway (RV pads, trucks, trailers, equipment): use Spec Base instead of Flex Base for the foundation layer. Increase total compacted depth to 8" minimum. Add a 3" topping of 1" screened limestone.

Drainage note: grade subgrade to slope at least 1% away from structures before base goes in. Fix drainage at the ground level — not at the surface. A flat or inverted driveway will pool water regardless of the surface material chosen.

PRO TIPS BEFORE YOU ORDER

Tip 1: Base depth is non-negotiable.

Every failed driveway has one thing in common: inadequate base depth. 4" minimum compacted base — 6" for vehicle weights above 10 tons.

Tip 2: Grade for drainage before base goes in.

Your subgrade should slope at least 1% away from structures. Fix it at the ground level — not at the surface.