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“How-To” use Decorative Rock

Decorative rock can spice up a garden pathway by adding color and defining the space. This type of rock can also be used as an alternative to mulch. Decorative rock comes in a variety of colors, including various shades of white, pink, brown, black, gray and red. Its size ranges from small gravel (3/8”) to golf-ball sized pebbles (1 1/2”).

- 1) Determine the location where you'll install the decorative rock.
- 2) Mark the area of the path or lawn with a rope or spray paint.
- 3) Dig out the soil within the border of the rope to a depth of three to four inches. A square-edged spade tends to work best for this task.
- 4) Smooth the bottom of the area with the spade, making it as even and compact as possible
- 5) Add a layer of crushed stone to the area and rake it flat. This creates a solid base for the decorative rock.
- 6) Compact the road base by lightly spraying with a garden hose and then pressing with a hand tamper tool until flat.
- 7) Place a layer of weed fabric over the crushed stone (road base), with the shiny side of the material facing upward. This fabric prevents weeds from growing through from the bottom.
- 8) Fill the area with your decorative rock and rake it smooth.



- When installing the landscape fabric, it may be helpful to use spikes to hold the fabric to the ground. This helps to prevent bunching.
- If you're creating a path or filling in the side of a sloped area, it may be useful to install edging around the area to prevent migration of the rocks.
- It may be necessary to re-fill the area with the decorative rock from time to time.