Aspire
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TECHNICAL BULLETIN

TB-250601

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PAVER EXPANSION & SPACING

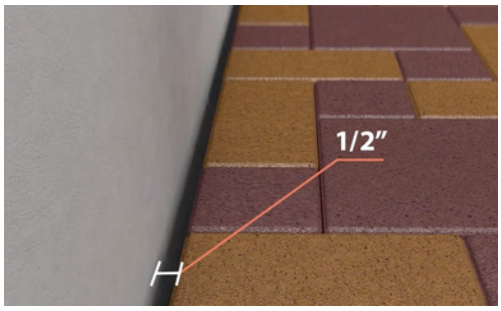
SUMMARY

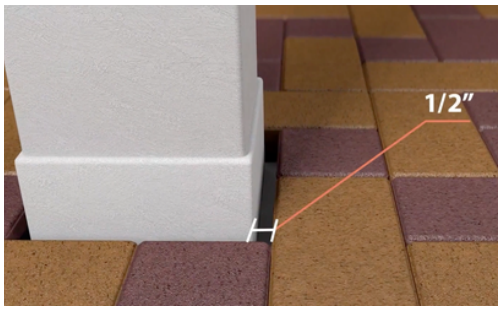
This technical bulletin provides guidance for properly installing Aspire Pavers to account for material expansion and contraction and reduce the risk of paver buckling. It covers the importance of maintaining a minimum 1/2" gap at walls and penetrations, adjusting spacing for hot and cold weather installations, and incorporating expansion joints using a basketweave pattern every 30 to 40 feet when working with long runs and/or large pavers. Following these practices will help ensure stable, long-lasting installations.

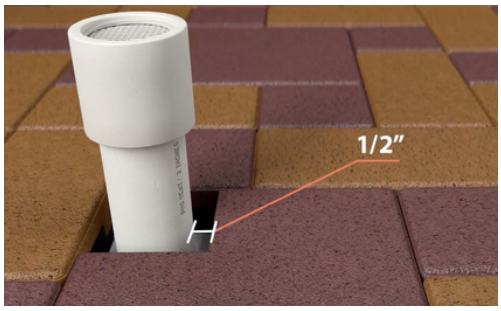
CONTENTS

1/2” GAP AT WALLS & PENETRATIONS

Like other composite materials, Aspire Pavers expand in hot weather and contract in cold. To accommodate this movement, always leave a minimum 1/2" gap between the pavers and the grid at walls, posts, and any penetrations.

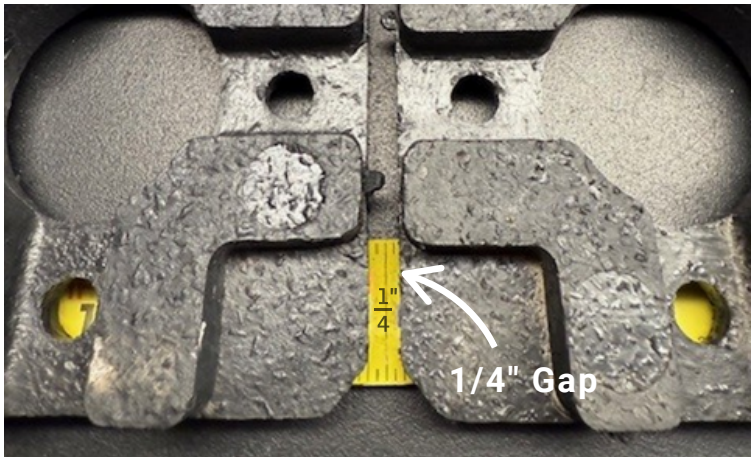




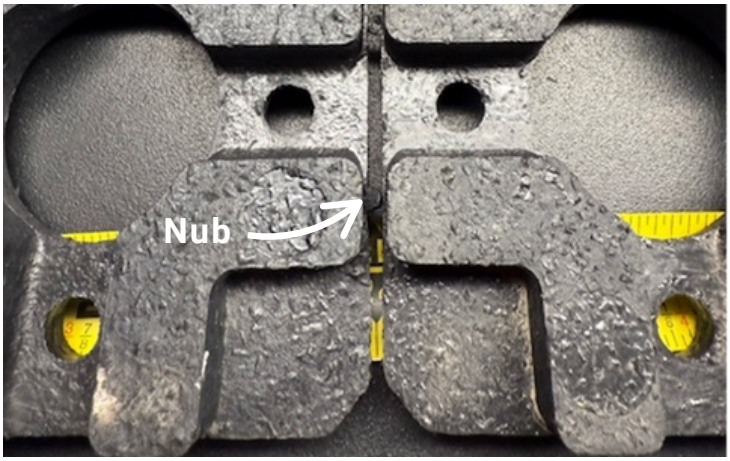


HOT & COLD WEATHER INSTALLATION

When installing Aspire Pavers, temperature plays a key role. In cold weather or shaded areas (below 50°F/10°C), the pavers and grids will be in a contracted state, so it’s important to leave extra spacing between the grids to allow for future expansion. In hot, sunny conditions (above 80°F/27°C), the pavers and grids will already be expanded, so the built-in spacing on the grid nubs will typically be sufficient. Being mindful of these temperature variations will help reduce the risk of buckling and ensure a stable, long-lasting installation.



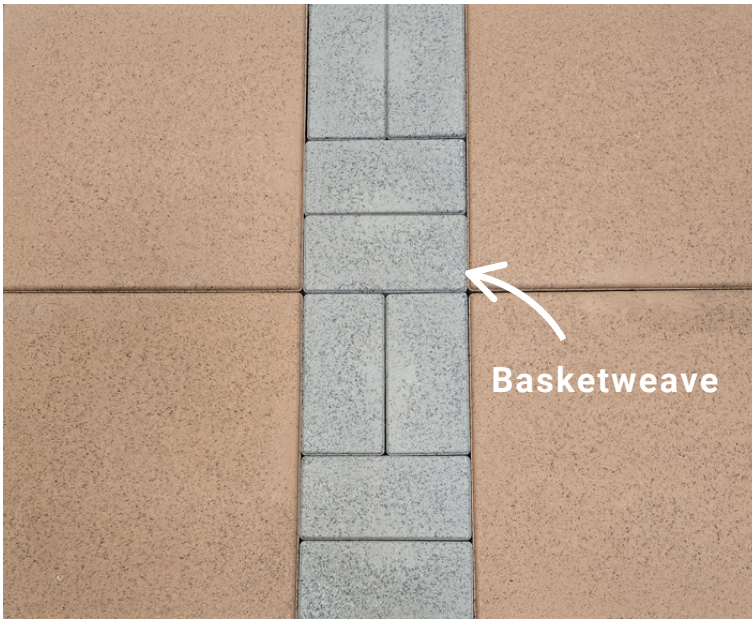
Cold Weather Installation (Below 50°F/10°C):
Leave a 1/4" gap between grids to allow for expansion.



Hot Weather Installation (Above 80°F/27°C):
Install grids with no spacing to allow for contraction.
Note: The nubs on the side of the grid will leave the small gap needed between grids as shown below.

EXPANSION JOINTS

When installing 16"x16" pavers, or using the Running Bond pattern with 4"x 8" pavers, long continuous stretches can lead to system buckling due to most of the thermal expansion occurring along the paver's length. To prevent this, we recommend placing an expansion joint every 30 to 40 feet by inserting a section of pavers in a basketweave pattern. This pattern redirects the lateral force into both vertical and horizontal directions, allowing the joint to absorb movement and reduce stress across the surface.



The image above illustrates a basketweave expansion joint section interrupting a long run of 16" pavers installed in a squared pattern.

NOTES

Aspire Pavers naturally expand and contract with temperature changes, so it's important to account for the conditions at the time of installation. Be mindful of whether the grids and pavers are in a contracted or expanded state when installed, and always leave a minimum 1/2" gap at all walls, posts, and penetrations. Following these guidelines will help prevent buckling and ensure a stable, long-lasting surface, especially when using larger pavers or the Running Bond pattern.

RESOURCES

Check for updates to this and other Technical Bulletins on our Resources Page.

Complete Installation Training, View Resources, and Contact Technical Support by visiting our Website or our Frequently Asked Questions page.

Training before any installation can improve project outcomes.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions regarding Aspire products and accessories, call 844-290-4196 and ask for Aspire Paver Technical Support. Or contact us through the Website.