



'How to use' guide for Decorative Aggregates supplied by Playbark.com

Several considerations need to be assessed before selecting a specific aggregate/gravel, these considerations include:

- Budget
- Best Value
- Aesthetics
- Coverage

- **Budget:** Fortunately, when you purchase a product from Playbark.com, we have an extremely large range of products and are confident we will have a product which suits everybody's budget.

By selecting a more competitively priced product, this does not necessarily determine this product is more inferior compared to the more expensive products, sometimes they are simply cheaper for us to distribute.

- **Best Value:** This for example, is a principle followed by many Local Authorities. Everybody's garden is different, if one particular product suits one area it may not all together suit another.

By having a more expensive product, in certain circumstances this may prove more cost effective than a less expensive product if the lesser priced product isn't suited to a certain application and has to be regularly replaced due to the nominal size being too small.

- **Aesthetics:** It is important to clarify, all of the products will be functional, they will all offer certain levels of beneficial weed suppression along with an attractive
- **Coverage (& other considerations):** Different-sized gravels are available: ranging from finer grades of around 6mm to the chunkier types which are around 20mm+. The medium-grade gravels, particularly if angular in shape, are easier to walk on than rounded pea shingle or larger pebbles or cobbles.

A 20kg bag of gravel will cover 0.20m² to a depth of 50mm. Gravel can also be bought in bulk bags holding 850kg, this amount should cover approximately 10m² at a depth of approximately 50mm depth.

How to use:

Annual and perennial weeds ideally should be removed from the proposed area, not only are they unsightly but they will also compete with plants for moisture, nutrients and light.

Removal may be performed manually by hand or chemically by applying a proprietary brand of weed killer, please read the label carefully if adopting this method.

Consider using a landscape fabric:

This is a very cost effective method in preventing the majority of weeds from emerging within a planted area.

Simply lay the fabric over the prepared area for planting and cut an 'X' configuration in it, large enough to plant the shrub through whilst allowing the folds to lay back down at ground level to ensure weed suppression.

Landscaping fabric will last for many years and is extremely effective. Being porous, it will allow moisture to pass through it into the soil structure.

<http://www.playbark.com/content/landscaping-fabric-weed-control-membrane>

Rubber Edging:

Ultimately, a planted area needs to start and stop, with this in mind to prevent the aggregate from spilling onto paved or lawn areas, it is good practice to use an 'edging' product which is not only effective but is aesthetically pleasing.

Tanalised timbers can be used quite effectively, but for something 'softer' to the eye why not consider our Rubber Edging. A wonderful innovative idea, which provides a cost effective yet functional solution.

<http://www.playbark.com/content/rubber-border-edging>

Application:

Always wear gloves when laying the aggregate.

Evenly spread the product over the surface, ideally at a depth of 50mm using a garden rake.

If plants have been used, water well after the product has been laid.

Ongoing maintenance:

Even though the application of aggregates will suppress weed growth by up to 80%, it is inevitable the occasional annual and more so perennials weed will germinate and become visible within the planting area.

Either remove the weeds by hand ensuring the root is also excavated, or if using a proprietary systemic weed killer as a spot treatment, ensure you follow the correct safety procedures as stated on the label.

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