

# INSTALLATION OF CONTRACTOR BASE

Remove enough pavers to dig a hole about 18 – 20 inches across.

Dig a hole 18 – 20 inches in diameter and 18 – 20 inches deep. If there is sand under the pavers, save some to use later when you reinstall the pavers.

Use a posthole digger to dig a smaller diameter hole in the center of the first hole to 6 inches below frost line (varies by state – in Ohio we figure 36 inches to frost – so in Ohio we would go 42 inches).

Taper larger hole into smaller hole so all moisture will run downhill into the smaller hole. Taper only needs to be an inch or so. Clean both holes of loose dirt.

Fill smaller diameter hole with round rock (river rock) – it will not pack.

Line the upper larger hole with plastic (I use a contractor garbage bag and cut a hole in the bottom). The plastic liner will keep dirt from migrating into the rock that you are going to add next. Do not line smaller hole with plastic.

Take the contractor base apart. There are two pieces to the contractor base. The bottom part has a hole drilled in the center to drain water. The top part has four nuts welded on to attach the rotating base of the umbrella. What you need now is the lower part of the contractor base with the drain hole.

Fill the bottom part of the larger hole with rock and then set the lower part of the contractor base on the rock. The goal here is to have the top of the lower part of the contractor base stick above the finished pavers (when they are put back in place) by about ½ inch.

Once the contractor base is the right height & right where you want it, take a small piece of plastic – cut a little X in the middle and slide over the lower part of the base. You do not want the concrete to migrate through the stone and plug the drain hole in the contractor base. Now, slip the top part of the contractor base into the lower part. Get a level and make sure the top of the contractor base is level. Get it close now and perfect after you pour concrete.

Mix two or three bags of concrete – 100 to 120 pounds (more if you want). Pour mixed concrete around contractor base – tamp a little to fill all the voids – smooth the top. Top of concrete should be lower than the bottom of the pavers. When the concrete has hardened, you can add a little sand and then put the pavers back in place. Now that the concrete is in place & before it gets hard - make sure that the top of the contractor base is level. Brace if necessary.

Concrete takes a couple of days to get most of its strength – please wait that long to install your umbrella.