

# Super Easy Walling

Discover the fastest, easiest way to build a retaining or feature wall in your garden.

## Life by the Sea

#### Creating a cosy coastal patio

See how Paul and Anna transformed their seaside outdoor space.

Issue 08 | Winter 2022

# OUTDOOR LIFESTYLE

#### **Frost Protection**

How to keep your plants safe from frost this winter



#### **Blooms Galore!**

Learn the basics of successional planting



# Welcome to your magazine



Now the weather's really starting to bite, it's time to start planning and preparing for next year.

In this edition of your magazine we've got some great pointers to help you do that – whether it's mulching to protect plants, planning a hard landscaping project or planning for a full season of cut flowers with successional planting.

In our customer story, we're taking a look around Anna and Paul's beautiful coastal garden project. With a home on the north coast of Northern Ireland, the couple wanted a purpose-made outdoor space in which they could enjoy the sea air and stunning views.

Elsewhere in our magazine, our Technical Manager, Craig McBride, gives the lowdown on permeable paving – a great option if your garden suffers from flooding or waterlogging issues.

And we're showcasing some garden walling projects, featuring products from Tobermore's retaining wall range, Secura.

I hope that gives you plenty of food for thought for the winter months, and some ideas for an exciting new year in your garden.

Happy gardening!



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## ONLINE TOOLS FOR GARDENERS

Need help planning your garden project? We've got a plethora of tools and services to get you started.



# How to winter-proof UQUU DUUTS

Here are some quick and easy ideas to protect your plants from frost as the year enters its coldest months.

#### Which plants need protecting?

Not all plants are at risk of frost damage. The types that do need some attention over the winter months include:

- Young seedlings and new growth
- **Tender perennials**
- **Half-hardy varieties**
- **Tropical and sub-tropical plants such as palms** and banana plants

#### What does frost darnage look like?

Plants that have been affected by winter frosts will often have blackened, distorted or limp growth. Some plants may have scorching and pale brown patches between the leaf veins.



#### How do I prevent frost damage?

There are a number of ways to keep your plants safe during cold weather. Here are our top things you can do:

- First of all, choose plants that are hardy and well-suited to the growing conditions in your outdoor space.
- Position your plants carefully, taking care to avoid so-called frost pockets (areas of your garden that are more at risk of early and late frosts).
- Grow your slightly tender plants in a sunny spot for example, against a south-facing wall.
- Cover your plants with a thick layer of horticultural fleece when frost is forecast.
- Mulch around the root area of evergreens, tender shrubs and perennials with a thick layer of organic mulch - such as bark chippings or compost - to stop the ground becoming frozen.
- Dig up tender plants and transfer them to a sheltered position or the greenhouse.
- Container plants can be easily moved, so put them in a sheltered part of the garden in cold weather and give them some extra protection by wrapping their containers in bubble wrap.
- Leave last season's growth on tender plants, as this gives them valuable frost protection over winter.





#### A customer story...

#### With a beautiful property on the north coast of Northern Ireland, Anna and Paul wanted a patio and outside space to enjoy the sea view.

Anna explains: "The main aim of the project was to create an enclosed area where we could sit and relax outdoors. Having some shelter was important for us, to avoid the breezy coastal air while enjoying some outside dining."

To begin with, the couple visited the Tobermore Paving Centre. "We went there a couple of times," says Anna, "and brought home some brochures and samples. These gave us lots of ideas about which products and colours would best match our home. The Tobermore staff we spoke to there were very friendly and incredibly helpful."

After their visits to the Paving Centre, Anna and Paul decided to make use of the Tobermore Landscape Design Service.

Anna says: "We used the Silver Design Service and found it a huge help when it came to making the final decision on our project. As part of the design package, we had an onsite visit from Lynn at Tobermore. She had a good look at our garden and suggested products and colours which suited our home perfectly. She made the decisionmaking process really simple."

After the on-site visit, the couple received a 2D computer-generated plan of their project with the products they had chosen: Historic Flags in Heather.

Now the project is complete, Anna says: "We are thrilled with how it all looks and how easy the process has been. We plan to plant some shrubs later in the year to really finish off the area, but we are delighted with our new patio."









# Jobs for your garden this 701111ET

Wrap up warm, pull on those wellies and get out there! It may be winter, but there's still lots you can do in your outdoor space.



#### Let grass rest

Your lawn will have entered its dormant phase, as it takes a break from a summer of rigorous growth. While it's resting, it's best to avoid walking on grass if you can help it or you risk damaging it. If you have to walk on your lawn for extended periods, use some boards or planks to spread your weight across the ground.

#### Get digging your beds

Winter is a great time to dig over your beds. By digging over now, you'll leave the soil ready to be broken up by frosts, helping to improve its structure. If you have clay soil, now is a particularly good time to do this. If you have sandy soil, however, it's best to wait until spring as it will be more prone to losing moisture.









#### Help the wildlife

Birds and other garden creatures really struggle to find food at this time of year. Give them a helping hand by leaving food and shelter readily accessible in your garden.

For the birds, nuts, seeds and fat balls will keep them well-fed. Be sure to put out fresh water, too. Hedgehogs will thank you for leaving piles of leaves and logs for them to find shelter.

#### Build a compost heap

It's so easy to make a basic compost heap in any garden. You can go all out and make a dedicated area out of pallets and wire mesh to store raked-up leaves. Or simply stuff the leaves into black bin bags with a little soil, poke some holes in the bags and leave them in a cool, dark place - such as your garage or shed. The resulting compost will be wonderfully nutrient-rich and perfect to dig into your soil when planting new plants or for mulching.

#### Plan ahead

While the garden hibernates, you can use the downtime to plan next year's projects. Get prepped for any hard landscaping projects in the spring when the ground unfreezes.

Draw up your ideas for successional planting (we've got more on that in this issue), to guarantee year-round interest and a plethora of beautiful blooms for your home. Now's also the time to plan for any bigger projects you might want to complete in the spring - such as a gazebo, garden room or new patio.





# An Introduction to Successional Planting for cut flowers



Successional planting is great if you want a constant stream of colour and interest in your garden. And if you're growing cut flowers, it means you'll have an abundance of wonderful fresh blooms for your home throughout the growing season, too.



So how do you get started with successional planting for your cut flower patch? It can be a complex subject, but here are some tips to help you get going.

#### Firstly, what is successional planting?

If you're not familar with the concept, successional planting is all about sowing and growing a crop of flowers multiple times throughout the growing season. When you're growing for cut flowers, it means you can get a high yield of blooms to enjoy in your home for longer.

#### Get started with... some admin

Yes, you read that right. Successional planting involves a lot of planning! And the best way to start is by creating a spreadsheet. It sounds boring, but you need to figure out what you'd like to grow, when your growing window is (depending on the last and first frosts of the year) and how frequently you'll be planting out and harvesting your blooms (depending on germination rates).

#### Figure out your planting schedule

Once you know which flowers you'd like to grow, you can then plan your planting schedule. Working to a two-week plan is an easy way to get started. So, for example, following the last frost of spring, you might decide to plant cornflowers, then two weeks later, some calendular and so on. Planting out in these intervals extends the season and makes sure you have more flowers to enjoy.

#### **Best blooms to try**

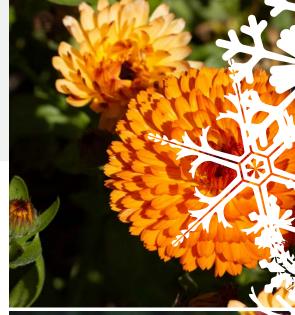
When getting started with successional planting, there are some sure-fire blooms you can grow that will never let you down. These include sweet peas, dahlias, ammis, zinnias and ranunculus. Generally, these can all be succession grown every three weeks or so for the best results.

#### Look after your seeds

As a successional planter, you'll start to build up a large bank of seeds. Storing all the different packets properly is important, as seeds can start to age once air gets to them. When you're storing your seeds, keep the packet folded over and taped shut. Then store it in an old fridge or somewhere you can maintain a steady eight degrees (the best temperature at which to store seeds).

#### Remember, less is more

Resist the urge to sow too many seeds. It's very easy to become overwhelmed by an abundance of seedlings that quickly fill up your greenhouse or potting shed. When starting out with successional planting, work on a scale that's manageable for you.











#### Rustic charm for the garden

Secura's tumbled finish brings a charming rustic appearance to your feature walls and it comes in a combination of three block sizes, making it easy to create distinctive curved walls. Secura is mortar-free, meaning it's held together simply by its own weight. This makes it quick and easy to build. Secura is available in a choice of three traditional blended colours: Heather, Bracken and Slate.



#### Innovative installation

For projects that require a dry stone walling product with an attractive finish, our Garden Stone Walling ticks all the boxes. The product is a free-standing, mortar-free solution which guarantees a fast and simple installation process as the tapered blocks are simply glued together and the joints do not require pointing.

With the product faced on both sides, it can be installed anywhere as it doesn't have to be infilled with planting at either side. This feature also allows you to make a statement with curved features or with stylish separation areas.

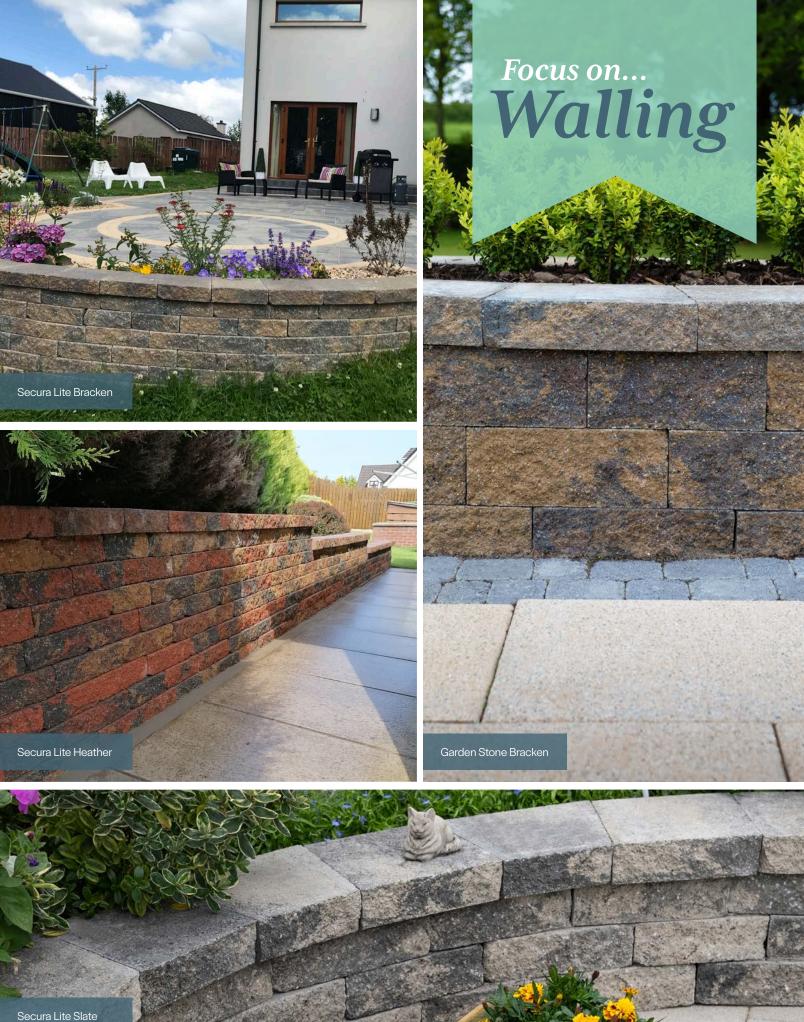
#### Why consider Secura Lite and Garden Stone?

- Easy to build and perfect for DIY projects
- ✓ Mortar-free building solutions
- ✓ Rustic, aged textures and finishes
- ✓ Vibrant, long-lasting colours
- ✓ Cost-effective, compared to concrete and brick
- ✓ Engineered for strength



Find out more about the Tobermore walling range and get inspiration for your outdoor space. Go to the Tobermore website.





# Mulch

ado about nothing?

Mulching is the process of adding organic or inorganic material to your garden beds – such as bark chippings, pebbles or sheet mulches like landscape fabric. But does mulching really benefit your garden as much as everyone says it does?

Here's why mulching is recommended by expert gardeners everywhere.



If you opt for an organic mulch – such as bark chippings, compost or leaf mould – you'll be adding a great deal of nutrients into your soil. Organic mulches break down gradually and release goodness over time, helping to improve the quality of your soil and, in turn, provide a better growing environment for your plants.

#### Helps retain moisture

Mulching locks moisture into the soil and stops it from evaporating away too quickly. During dry spells, this helps stop the soil from drying out and depriving your plants from much needed sustenance.

#### Forms a barrier to weeds

When you mulch your beds, you also create a barrier for weeds, blocking out sunlight and making it much harder for weed seeds to germinate. While human-made sheet mulches are often used for this, they aren't particularly attractive and require a further layer of gravel or other material to cover them. A thick layer of organic mulch will also do a fine job in minimising weed growth, with the added benefit of bringing nutrients to your soil, too.

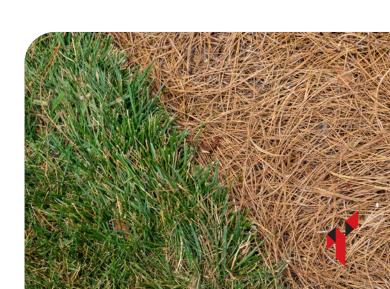


#### **Protects plant roots**

Mulching around the root area of a plant will help to protect it from a variety of weather conditions. In autumn, when temperatutes dip, mulching can help protect your plant roots from frost. Likewise, in the spring and summer, mulching helps to reduce the impact of hot weather on your plants.

#### It looks nice!

And of course, another good reason to mulch your garden is simply because it looks good! Neatly mulched borders and beds will always bring an added wow factor to your garden.



## Ask an Expert About:

# Permeable Paving



**Craig McBride**Technical Manager

If you're planning a patio or driveway renovation this winter, permeable paving could be the best option for you. Tobermore's Craig McBride explains why.

Every year, there are reports of floods in communities across the UK and Ireland. The more homes we build, the bigger the problem becomes, as the ground is effectively 'sealed over' with tarmacked and paved surfaces, forcing rainwater to flow into already saturated drainage systems.

Luckily, there's a simple solution. And it's a solution that brings benefits for homeowners, too.

#### What is permeable paving?

On the surface, permeable paving looks exactly the same as any other type of paving. The difference is that permeable paving allows water to pass down between the flags or blocks and into the ground below, rather than forcing the water to flow or pool above ground.

#### What are the benefits?

There are two huge benefits with permeable paving. For homeowners, it means water will quickly 'disappear' into the ground when it rains, preventing waterlogging issues in your garden or puddles on your driveway. For your community and the environment, it means the risk of flash flooding and overwhelmed drainage systems will be significantly reduced. What's more, in the UK, you don't need planning permission to lay permeable paving on your driveway.

#### How do you lay permeable paving?

The secret to permeable paving's success lies in its sub-base (the materials used to prepare the ground before the paving is laid).

Typically, paving is laid on a bed of crushed aggregate and sand – fully compacted to ensure a firm and level surface on which the paving can be laid.



With permeable paving, 20mm angular stones are used for the base layer. These lock together to create a solid foundation, but they also leave small voids inbetween each stone. These voids are where rainwater is collected once it has trickled down from the surface layer. Smaller 6mm angular grit is then placed on top, onto which the paving can be laid.

When it rains, the water is 'stored' in the voids until it naturally soaks away into the ground below.

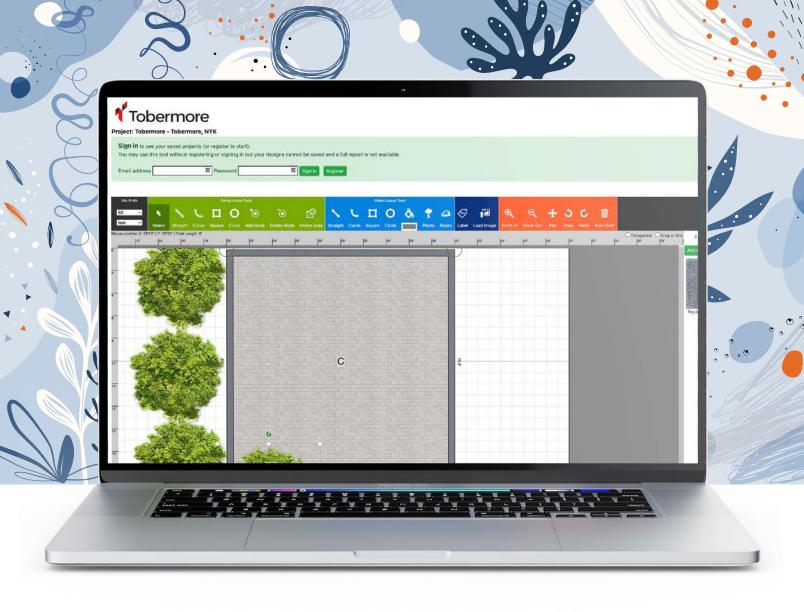
### Permeable paving and planning permission

In a small number of cases, planning permission may be required when installing non-permeable paving on a driveway. If you are unsure or have concerns about planning requirements then permeable paving could be the most cost effective and simplest solution as it does not require any permission.

Tobermore's Pedesta, Tegula, Shannon and Sienna paving ranges are all available in a permeable option.

For more information on permeable paving and to explore our full product range, visit our website.





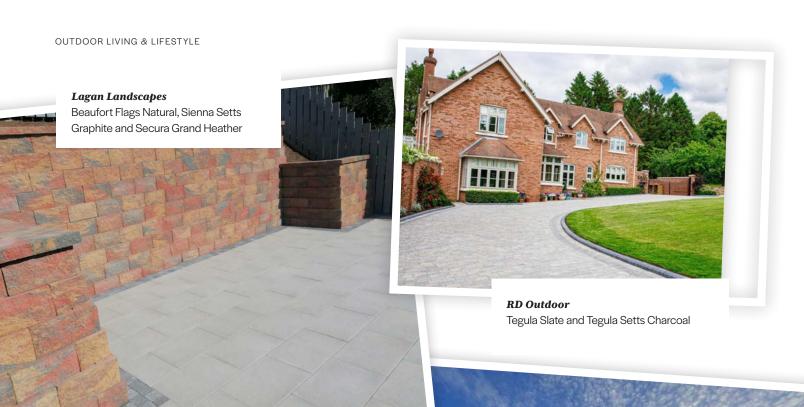
# Design, calculate and plan your paving with

# **Paving Calculator**

Paving Calculator is a 2D online tool which allows you to plan your paving project and calculate the quantities you'll need.

**Try Paving Calculator today** 





# Quick Project Pics

Take inspiration from these project photos, sent in by our Registered Contractors.



**Drive Ways**Shannon Charcoal and Sienna Setts Silver

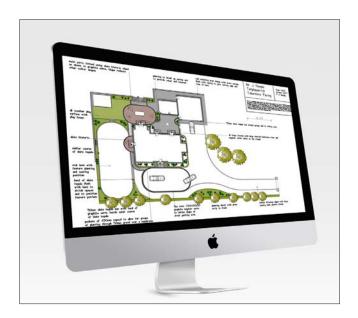
Quickly and easily find a Registered Paving Contractor near you using our 'Find a Contractor' tool on the Tobermore website.

Find a contractor



# Online Tools for Perfect Planning

The Tobermore website is home to a host of digital tools and services to help you plan, design and build your outdoor space.



#### **Landscape Design Service**

Our landscape design consultation service is available in a range of packages to suit all projects and budgets. Consultations are provided on-site for our customers in Northern Ireland and ROI, and by video call for our customers in England, Scotland and Wales.

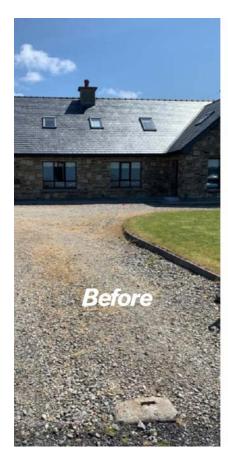
Click here to find out more about our landscape design service.

#### **Paving Creator**

Paving Creator is our free tool to help you experiment with various paving design options and products. Simply specify whether you're designing a driveway or patio, choose a 'scene' in which to view your paving, and get creative! If you like what you create, you can easily request a quote for the paving products directly through the Paving Creator tool.

Click here to find out more about Paving Creator.







### Paving Visualisation Service

Bring your paving project to life by visualising your paving choice at your own property. Send us a picture of your driveway or patio area with a description of your project, advise us on what products and colours you would like for your project, and we'll send you a computer generated image of your paving choice at your home.

Click here to find out more about our paving visualisation service.

# How To Buy Your Paving

You can find information on the Tobermore website about how to choose and buy paving products.

Click here to find a Tobermore stockist in your area.





