

Gravel Size Chart: Stone Sizes, Uses & Weight

The common gravel and crushed stone types side by side: nominal size, what each is used for, and the in-place weight our calculators use to turn cubic yards into tons.

Common gravel and stone

Material	Nominal size	Best used for	Tons per yd ³ (in place)	lb per yd ³
Crusher run / #411	0-3/4" with fines	Compacted base under driveways, patios, sheds	1.5	3,000
#57 crushed stone	3/4"	French drains, driveway top layer	1.4	2,800
#8 crushed stone	3/8"	Paver setting bed, smooth driveway topping	1.4	2,800
#4 crushed stone	1.5-2.5"	Bottom layer of a deep driveway, erosion control	1.35	2,700
Pea gravel	3/8" rounded	Paths, play areas, patios (needs edging)	1.35	2,700
River rock	1-2" rounded	Beds, dry creek beds	1.35	2,700
Decomposed granite	1/4" and fines	Firm natural-looking paths, xeriscaping	1.4	2,800
Crushed limestone	3/4" with fines	Economical driveway surface	1.45	2,900
Marble chips	1/2-1"	White accent beds	1.35	2,700
Coarse / bedding sand	Fine	Leveling course under pavers, pipe bedding	1.35	2,700

Angular crushed stone locks together and compacts; rounded stone (pea gravel, river rock) rolls, drains well and needs edging. Stone with fines (crusher run, dense-grade, DG) compacts hardest.

Crushed limestone grades

Grade	Size	Typical use
1B	1/4-1/2"	Paths, paver bedding, driveway top dressing
#57	1/2-1"	Driveway top coat, drainage, under concrete
#5	1"	Driveways and drainage
#4	1 1/2-2 1/2"	Driveway base layer
#3	2-3"	Driveway base on soft ground, construction entrances
#2	2-4"	Base for heavy traffic, culverts, erosion control
Dense-grade (2A / #304 / 21A)	About 1-2" to dust	Compacted base under driveways, pads and pavers

Our limestone calculator uses 2,410 lb per cubic yard for these graded products. Names differ by state (2A, #304, 21A and "crusher run" are all dense-grade bases): ask the quarry for its spec sheet.

How deep to lay it

Project	Depth
Decorative bed / mulch replacement	2"
Walkway or garden path	2-3"
Patio base (under pavers)	4-6"
Driveway top layer	2-3"
New driveway, total build	8-12"
Shed or parking pad base	4-6"
French drain trench	12-18"

A new driveway in our driveway calculator is three compacted layers over geotextile fabric: 4 in of #4 stone, 4 in of crusher run, then 2-3 in of #57 on top.