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WHAT YOU NEED:

Large crazy paving slabs, thickness 4 - 6 cm →

- Gravel
- Measuring tape
- Slate knife and/or chisel
- Ball-peen hammer and/or small sledgehammer
- Rubber mallet (or your own body weight)

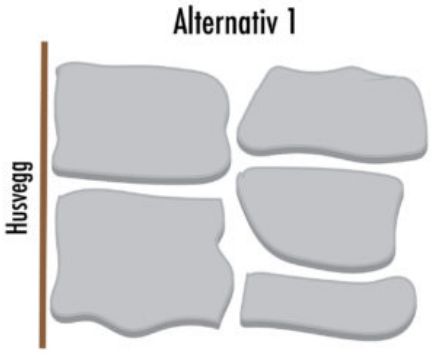
While heavy and a bit challenging to handle, with proper lifting techniques, the "slate dance," and a few handy tips, you'll succeed and enjoy these benefits:

- Natural look that blends with the surroundings – like walking on a mountain!
- Large stone surfaces make it easy to keep clean and tidy
- Durable and can withstand vehicles
- Stable, simplifying groundwork
- Can be used without adjustment or tailored for a cleaner look
- Can handle rough shaping with minimal or no breakage
- No need for adhesives or grouting

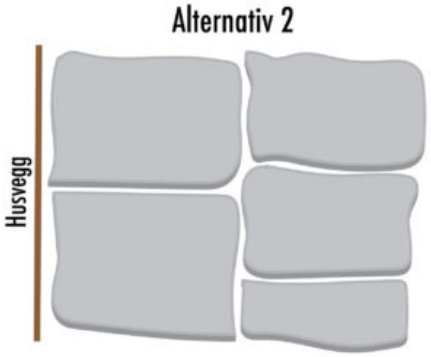
1. Quantity calculation

There is little to no waste if you don't cut the slate. For rough adjustments (option 1), add about 5 % extra, and for finer adjustments (option 2), about 10 % extra.

A 10 cm layer of gravel is sufficient under normal conditions, with extra to level thinner slabs. 8/16 mm gravel works well for drainage.



Minimal adjustment creates gaps of 5 – 15 cm, which can be filled with gravel, sand, stone chips, river stones, soil, or grass seed.



A higher degree of customization for a cleaner look results in joints between 2–5 cm, which can be filled with materials like subbase/sand, soil, and grass seeds.

Check out 5 different joint types for flagstone laid on loose material here!

2. Preparing the ground

Rough grade the terrain (excavator)

Add gravel

Level the gravel with a slight slope (1.5%)

Remember to leave space for the slate, stopping 60 mm below the final height

3. Adjusting and laying the crazy paving

1. Plan

Lay out the slabs to visualize. Take time to familiarize yourself with the stone. When laying a patio, focus on the shape and placement to avoid dead ends. Always plan ahead, noting where you can place future slabs.

2. Find the height level

Measure the thickness of the first slab to gauge how much filler is needed to reach the desired level. Add filler where necessary.

3. Lay the first slab

To move the slabs (the “slate dance”), tilt them off the pallet using gravity and balance. Pivot the slab from side to side until you reach the placement area. Lay the slab down toward you for more control.

4. Adjust if necessary

Trim edges for practical or aesthetic reasons using a slate knife and hammer.

5. Check and secure

Ensure the level is correct. Adjust the base if needed, then secure the slab with a rubber mallet or by stomping on it.

5. Continue

Check the level regularly, adding filler as necessary, and lay the next slab, shaping it to fit the adjacent one.