EASY DRIVEWAYS

Driveway Buying Guide

Wigan · Standish · Chorley · 2026 edition

A new driveway is one of the few home improvements you look at every single day. This is the advice we give at the kitchen table: what the surfaces are really like, what the 5m² rule means, and the questions worth asking before you hand anyone a deposit. No jargon, no pressure.

That's Paul on the right — he surveys, quotes and runs the jobs himself. Family-run since 2008.



The four surfaces, in plain English

SURFACE	BEST FOR	WHAT TO KNOW
Permeable block paving	Front gardens over 5m² and drives that hold water	Rain drains where it falls, so it normally needs no planning permission. Blocks can be lifted and relaid.
Standard block paving	Kerb appeal and a traditional look	The widest choice of colours and patterns. Repairable block by block, so one damaged block isn't a new drive.
Tarmac	Larger drives and tighter budgets	Smooth, hard-wearing and quick to lay. Looks sharp with a block-paved border.
Patios and paving	Back gardens and seating areas	Block paving, porcelain and natural stone, laid to fall away from the house.

WHAT WILL IT COST?

Every drive is different — the area, the access, what has to come out and the product you choose all move the number. Rather than put a guess in a leaflet, use our online calculator for a guide price in 30 seconds: **easydriveways.com/#calculator**. Paul then confirms the exact figure, in writing, at your free survey.

THE 5m² RULE

Front garden over 5m²? If the surface is traditional (impermeable) and rainwater doesn't drain to a lawn or border, you'll normally need planning permission. A **permeable** surface of any size normally doesn't. It isn't a loophole — it's the drainage system the rules are designed to encourage.

What actually makes a driveway last

The sub-base

The stone layer under the blocks carries the car. Too thin, or not properly compacted, and the drive settles and dips within a few winters.

The edges

Proper edging holds the blocks tight so the pattern doesn't creep and the joints don't open up at the sides.

The falls

Water has to go somewhere sensible — away from the house, the garage and the neighbours' boundary.

The finish

Joints filled with kiln-dried sand on standard block paving, or 6mm clean stone on permeable paving — then a full clean-up and a walk round with you before we pack up.





Seven questions to ask any driveway installer

Ask these before you compare prices. The answers tell you far more than the quote does.

1. **How deep will you dig, and what goes under the blocks?**

   A proper excavation and compacted stone sub-base is the difference between a drive that lasts and one that dips.

2. **Where will the rainwater go?**

   Ask them to show you on the drive. Water should be heading away from the house, not towards it or the street.

3. **Is this price fixed in writing, and what's included?**

   Removal of the old surface, skips, drainage, edging and clean-up. Get it in the quote, not agreed on the day.

4. **Who will actually be on site?**

   Some firms quote and then send a different crew. Ask whether it's their own team, and who you call if there's a problem.

5. **Are you insured, and can I check your credentials?**

   Public liability insurance, plus a scheme you can verify yourself — like the Wigan Council Good Trader Scheme (GTS0345).

6. **What happens if you find an old drain or a hidden service?**

   The good answer: we stop, show you, and agree the cost before doing anything.

7. **Can I see a recent job nearby, or speak to a customer?**

   Real driveways in your area, not stock photos. Most of our work comes from recommendations.

YOUR FREE SURVEY, STEP BY STEP

01

Measure and levels

Paul measures the drive, checks the levels and looks at the access.

02

Drainage check

Where the rain goes now, and where it should go.

03

Samples in your hand

Hold the blocks, compare colours, choose the finish.

04

Written price

A clear quote covering labour, materials and removal.

Why people pick Easy Driveways

GTS0345

Wigan Council Good Trader, vetted by Trading Standards.

38 reviews

Verified 5-star reviews on the Good Trader scheme.

Since 2008

Family-run, and Paul is the one who surveys and quotes.

Insured

Public liability insurance on every job we do.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

"Absolutely love our new drive. Paul and the team were very tidy, punctual, professional and great value for money. Even the neighbours commented on how great they were!"

Nichola · Wigan · Google review

Ready when you are.

Free survey. Written price. No pressure to say yes.

CALL OR WHATSAPP PAUL

01257 430404

WhatsApp 07976 838269

EMAIL OR VISIT

info@easydriveways.com

easydriveways.com

Mon–Fri 08:00–18:00 · Sat 08:00–14:00 · Sunday by arrangement · Based in Standish, Wigan WN6 · Wigan Council Good Trader GTS0345 · Family-run since 2008