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Slate is a fine-grained, foliated, homogeneous metamorphic rock derived from an original sedimentary rock composed of clay or volcanic ash through low-grade regional metamorphism that result is a foliated rock in which the foliation may not correspond to the original sedimentary layering. When expertly "cutâ€•, many slate pavers will form smooth flat sheets of stone, which have long been used floor tiles and paving.

Recently, natural stone paving has again become the choice of paving adopted by architects and town planners alike over the mundane and poorer concrete and asphalt surfacing, recognising its aesthetic appeal, durability and long term cost benefits.

Today many domestic landscaping projects have also moved away from the concrete imitation stone pavers in favour of natural stone paving and feature in the footpaths, driveways and patio areas of many homes. Natural Stone Paving leaves an eternal impression, each paving stone being unique in colour and texture

The colouration of slate can be quite diverse depending on the geographical location it is sourced and a variety of colours can even come from a single locality; for example, slate from North Wales can be found in many shades of grey, from pale to dark, but may also be purple, green or cyan.

Slate paving is often used for interior and exterior flooring, stairs, walkways and wall cladding and are usually installed set on a bed of mortar and grouted along the edges. Slate is extremely versatile and a garden landscaped with slate can be fashioned to produce a traditional or contemporary paved area.

Slate paving is ideal for garden landscaping projects and particularly patio areas, creating great ambience whilst providing a very durable paved area. Slate has an extremely low water absorption index (less than 0.4%) making it very resistant to frost damage and breakage due to freezing.

Natural stone paving adds resale value to a property. For most of us our home is the biggest purchase that we will make and in these times of low house price inflation it is increasingly more important that the money we spend improving our property adds value to our investment and does not just become a cost of living. Landscaping the garden and the driveway is one of the best â€˜value for moneyâ€™ home improvement investments that can be made and immediately creates a visual statement about your home, an impression of lifestyle and enhances its desirability.

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