

How to Lay Outdoor Porcelain Tiles on Grass: A Simple Step-by-Step Guide



RAK Ceramics 20 mm outdoor porcelain tiles laid as a stepping-stone path across the lawn

A garden is made to be lived in. A stepping-stone path across the lawn turns it into a place you move through every day, from the terrace to the pool, from the gate to the front door, without wearing tracks into the grass. With RAK Ceramics 20 mm outdoor porcelain tiles, that path is something you can lay yourself in an afternoon, with no adhesive, no grout and no specialist help.

Why 20 mm outdoor porcelain tiles work on grass

Every RAK Ceramics outdoor porcelain tile is 20 mm thick. That thickness is what makes dry installation possible: the tile is strong enough to walk on, yet light enough to be laid directly on a prepared base without being fixed down. Porcelain does not change colour or size over time, it is highly resistant to loads and foot traffic, and the Antislip Barefoot+ surface keeps its grip even when wet, which matters for a path that runs past a pool or through a lawn that is watered every morning.

Because the tiles sit in the ground rather than on it, each one is held in place by the surrounding turf. There is nothing to cure and nothing to grout, so the path is ready to use as soon as the last tile is down.

What you will need



Everything you need for a dry installation on grass

Laying a path on grass takes just a few tools, most of which are already in the garden shed:

- A square-point shovel
- Work gloves
- Pliers or a lifter for handling the tiles
- A claw hammer or rubber mallet
- A trowel and a square-tip trowel
- A bag of 4–8 mm gravel
- And of course, RAK Ceramics 20 mm outdoor porcelain tiles (600 × 600 mm is the format shown in our guide)

Step 1: Plan the layout



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Place the tiles on the lawn, unfixed, and walk the route. This is the moment to decide the final position and the spacing between each tile. A comfortable stride is the usual guide for a stepping-

stone path; for a wider terrace-style area, tiles can be laid closer together with a narrow strip of grass between them. Adjust until the line looks right from the house and from the garden, then leave the tiles exactly where they are.

Step 2: Mark and cut the perimeter



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With the tile in position, use the shovel to make a few cuts into the turf around its edge. Lift the tile away and you have a clean outline of exactly where it will sit. Working one tile at a time keeps the spacing consistent and means you never lose the layout you settled on in Step 1.

Step 3: Remove the top layer of lawn



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Inside the marked outline, remove the turf and topsoil to a depth of approximately 5 to 6 cm. This allows for the 20 mm tile plus a gravel bed beneath it, with the finished surface sitting just below the level of the grass. Keep the cut edges as vertical as you can; they are what will hold the tile in place.

Step 4: Clean and level the base



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Clear away loose roots and stones and level the underlying ground with the trowel. An even base is what stops the tile from rocking underfoot later, so it is worth a minute of extra care here before the gravel goes in.

Step 5: Add a layer of gravel



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Spread a layer of 4–8 mm gravel across the base and smooth it off with the square-tip trowel. The gravel does two things: it fine-tunes the level so the tile sits flat, and it gives the tile a stable, free-draining bed so water passes through rather than pooling underneath.

Step 6: Lay the tile



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Set the tile onto the gravel so that its surface sits 0.5 to 1 cm below the level of the ground. Sitting slightly low is deliberate: it lets the mower pass straight over the path and keeps the edge of the tile protected by the turf around it. Tap the tile down with the mallet to seat it firmly on the gravel.

Step 7: Compact the edges



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Press the turf back in against the sides of the tile and compact the edges so the tile lies flush and snug in the ground. Then simply repeat for each tile along the route, and that's it: a path that is ready to use straight away.

A note on safety and installation systems

Outdoor paving installed above ground level without adhesive may be affected by strong winds and, in certain conditions, could become airborne. Laying tiles into the lawn as described here keeps them below ground level and held by the surrounding turf, which is why it is suited to a dry

installation. For any other application, RAK Ceramics recommends consulting a qualified professional to confirm that the selected installation system is suitable and complies with local laws, regulations and the intended conditions of use. Tile installed on a raised pedestal system may fracture if struck by a heavy object falling from a height; always follow RAK Ceramics' installation guidelines for raised pedestal systems.

For further information about RAK Ceramics 20 mm products and installation systems, including recommendations, usage restrictions and installation precautions, please refer to the 20 mm section of the catalogue.

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A path laid this way settles into the lawn rather than sitting on top of it. The grass grows back up to the edges, the mower passes straight over, and the porcelain keeps its colour and its grip season after season. Whether it links the terrace to the pool or the gate to the front door, it is a small change that makes the whole garden easier to use every day.