



Labyrinth Template

Install Instructions

Before getting started:

1. Please call **Digsafe** and check for any underground utilities before digging anywhere!
2. Decide on the materials for the “line” (separators) and the “lane” (paths), and procure amounts needed.

Materials needed

Clear packing tape, shovels (flat, spade), wheelbarrow, and compactor or gas operated plate compactor. Base material: crusher run, stone dust. Line materials: pavers, stone, brick. Lane materials: sod, crushed stone, etc. (Line and lane materials may be reversed.) If the labyrinth is a large one, you will need a small piece of machinery to assist with excavating and preparing the base.

- 3 circuit labyrinth: 10' diameter
- 5 circuit labyrinth: 16' diameter
- 7 circuit labyrinth: 20' diameter
- 8 circuit labyrinth: 24' diameter
- 9 circuit labyrinth: 27' diameter
- 12 circuit labyrinth: 43' diameter

Instructions

1. Measure your base area to make sure you have the room.
2. Take all template rolls to a flat open area (such as a parking lot or gymnasium), and sweep the area clean. Unroll all template sections and use match lines to line up, or in the case of the 12 circuit labyrinth, start with the Top strip #1, and match the images, black-to-black or as close as you can. All strips print with a small white border, so you can either trim off that border to get a black-to-black match, or you can overlap the previous strip a tiny bit. Using the packing tape, tape front (and back if necessary) to keep all the strips in place. Cut away any excess template and recycle.
3. Preparing the base (If transferring template directly to pavement, skip this section.)
 - The next step is to prepare the base. Decide what you will be using for the path (brick, steppingstones, pavers, etc.) and measure the thickness. However you prepare your base, the top surface of it should be below the surrounding grade by the same thickness as the path material.
 - You should dig your base 6 to 8 +/- inches deep. Dig deeper for the base if the labyrinth is going to be in a high traffic area, then rake the soil as smooth as possible, then use a flat plate compactor to force settling.

- Once the base is compacted, lay down landscaping fabric over it. The fabric will help stabilize the soil, and keep any roots from growing up through the pavers. Overlap the fabric layers by a few inches. Use a sharp utility knife to cut the edges; discard.
 - Once the fabric is laid out, spread the base material in 2" layers, compacting each layer. Keep checking to make sure that the layers are level. You can do this with string, which could get very confusing, or rent a laser level and use it frequently during the compacting process. If you find low areas, or pockets, make sure to level them out.
 - After spreading the gravel, you need to crown the base, which means creating an artificial pitch from the center of the circle to the outside edges so that water can run off. To do so, use the transit to create a mound in the center that is about $1\frac{1}{2}" \pm 2"$ (depending on the size of our labyrinth) higher than the perimeter. This will be the crown, about 2-1/2 inches below grade. Then spread the gravel so that it "crowns" at the extra height in the middle. Once the gravel pack is in, you can compact it with the compactor, and then make final adjustments to the topping.
 - The next step is to lay down a layer of concrete sand, which will be the setting bed for the pavers. The concrete sand layer should be one inch thick. Screed in sections using an extra-long screed board. For screeding this area, use a long 2x4. Use a laser level to keep track of that crown height. If the level is too low, simply add sand until you get it to the correct height.
 - When you've finished screeding the sand, keep some wooden planks handy, so you can lay them down over the sand while you put in pavers. This will keep the sand from getting displaced.
4. Set template on prepared base and rotate so entrance is in desired position, and then use stones or other weights to temporarily hold template in position. The "path" and "path separator" materials will be applied directly on top of the paper template (the paper will decompose). Start with the path material, and then fill in between with the separator material.
 5. You can use the polymer sand between the cracks of the path stones.
 6. You're finished! Congratulations. Enjoy your labyrinth for years to come.

Here are some helpful images, including one of the
12 circuit, 42 foot diameter Chartres Labyrinth (note the strip lines).

