



## Lego accents

Every morning, I tell my young daughter to have a fun day at school, and she always replies "have fun playing with the Legos". I have dubbed the Hardscape side as LEGOLAND. We even have a particular salesman who calls us the lords of Legos. The truth is that we really do play with a style of Legos. We can build



walls, roads, paths and occasionally a small dog or person. We do get to use the super glue and not get into trouble, and it is perfectly acceptable to beat these Legos with really big hammers!

Just like when we were kids, your ideas are only limited by time, money and space. As designers and contractors, the same problem still exists today. The difference today are the options. Did you know there are 27 different laying patterns for Brussel Block? Or that Fendt Holland is available in 23 colors? I ask because ideas can conflict with your budget or your allotted space. Not many contractors have the room to store leftover brick or the desire to sit on a product with hopes that the same sizes and colors may be used again. So it's in everyone's best interest to order as close to the exact amount as possible. Sometimes, the vendors will only sell certain products by a full bundle. That can be costly if you only needed 20 sqft but end up with 100. This is where a soldier or sailor course can help.

That's why I want to talk about soldier and sailor courses, or as some refer to them as "accents". For those unfamiliar with these terms, a soldier course runs perpendicular along the outside of the project. A sailor runs concurrent with the outside of the project. You can also insert inlays, which are designs inside the project area. Accents can help increase the total square footage of a project. They can also add to the design by accenting an existing color or tie multiple outdoor areas together. There are many choices in colors, sizes and textures to aid in designing the perfect blend of accents. You can find design ideas in the vendor's catalogs or websites. Don't be afraid to mix different brands together to get the look you want.

Accents can be helpful in large patios and driveways. They can add a splash of color or flair to a simple design. These same accents can also help simple and small designs such as walkways or paths. Most narrow projects look better when using a smaller scale product. This will also give you better opportunities to add accents without overcrowding an area. Just be aware that some of the products used for accenting may have different thicknesses, so you may have some fine tuning to do on the bedding course.

You still get to play with the Tonka toys and Legos, just on a much grander scale. Let your imagination run wild and be creative. Go ahead and mix the Lego sets together. Let the kid in you come out and play, and most of all... Have fun!



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