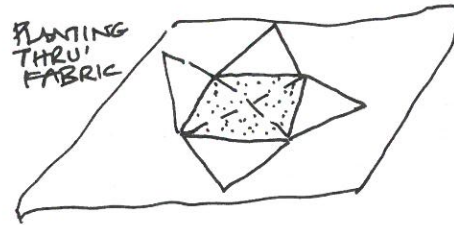
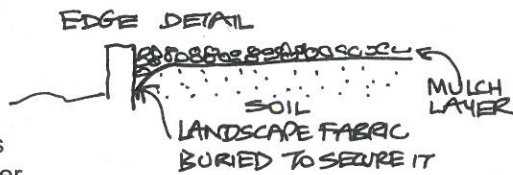


## where to mulch?

- Around new plants to stop weeds growing while the plants get bigger
- Around established plants where there is bare soil showing to keep weeds at bay
- As a ground cover to sit pots on or have stepping stones running through the area.



## landscape fabric

This is a man made fabric that comes in different strength grades depending on how much 'traffic' is crossing the area: very little walking; regular walking; light car parking. The material is porous allowing air and water to pass through. Avoid using polythene.

### laying down fabric

1. Ensure you have removed all weeds and smoothed over and firmed the soil.
2. Lay the fabric down and secure the edges by burying in the soil, tucking under slabs or using ground pins or staples – nothing looks worse than seeing loose fabric above the mulch.

### planting through fabric

1. lay the fabric over smoothed soil
2. cut a cross in the fabric where you want to plant
3. fold back the fabric & make a planting hole
4. plant as usual adding fertiliser
5. you will have excess soil displaced by the plant's rootball to remove
6. fold back fabric, water well and spread mulch layer

## Which mulch to choose?

Deciding on the look you like is the most important thing – these are the technical details (all approximate):

Mulch type	size	Depth of mulch	coverage
Composted bark/soil conditioner	70/50l	2.5-5cm	2-3m <sup>2</sup>
Landscape bark	100l	2.5-5cm	3m <sup>2</sup>
Decorative Mini Bark	70l	2cm	2.5m <sup>2</sup>
Smart cover	100l	3cm	5m <sup>2</sup>
Cambark Chunky Bark	70l	2.5cm	3m <sup>2</sup>
Gravels – approx.	25k	3.5-4cm	0.4m <sup>2</sup>

# mulching is a must...

## what is a mulch?

A layer of material spread on the surface of the soil to a depth between 2.5 to 5cm (1"-2").

The mulch can be organic material, like Bark or Woodchips, or it can be a Gravel or Stone chippings.



## why do I need it?

You need to decide if you want it just to make your garden look better or if you want it to look good but still keep improving your soil and helping your plants to grow while you just watch.



- **Just to look decorative**  
to stop the soil coming up and messing up your mulch and to keep weeds from growing through your mulch you should first lay a landscape fabric over the soil and then spread the mulch on top. The mulch can be stone or organic material. Read more about landscape fabric below.

- **Decorative and cultural**  
Smooth and weed the surface of the soil and then spread a thick layer of mulch directly onto the soil. This will stop weed seeds germinating, keep moisture in the soil, and encourage worms to take the organic material down into your soil to improve it. The mulch in this situation must be organic material

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