

# The Japanese Garden Centre's "how to..

## *.. design a stepping stone pathway*

The use of stepping stones in Japanese gardens became popular during the Momoyama period (1573 - 1615) with the purpose to guide your path through the garden. Stepping stones should be arranged with ease of walking in mind. Creating a pathway that is irregular, uneven in parts, forces you to walk slower and to focus on the ground helping you connect to the garden. We would also recommend selecting stones with size variation so that it helps create interest, and can change the rhythm of the walk.

Below are some examples of ways you can arrange a stepping stone pathway, or simply design your own path.



Straight line



Two in line



Three in line



Four in line



Two then three  
in line



Three then four  
in line



Bird steps



Zig-zag



Large curve

