

HOW TO BUILD A RETAINING WALL

INSTALLING RETAINING WALLS REQUIRES A HIGH DEGREE OF PREPARATION AND CARE IN ORDER TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

Before you start check with your local council for building requirements. Walls over 1m high (or less), or close to a building may require approval. Also check manufacturer's technical guides these will provide essential information for installation.

STEP 1 PREPARATION

Mark out the area and measure. Calculate the number of blocks, corners and caps you will need, allowing extra for cuts. You will need to calculate quantities of roadbase for the foundations and blue metal aggregate for drainage and backfill.

STEP 2 LAY OUT THE WALL AND EXCAVATE

Lay out the wall using stakes and stringline. Excavate the area to obtain a trench for the foundation. You will need to lay a foundation and compact to meet manufacturer's specifications. Ensure the area is clear of rocks, roots and other debris. It is important to have the foundation even and level as this will impact on the final result.

STEP 3 LAY THE FIRST COURSE

Ensure the stringline runs at the back of the wall so the blocks will be laid in a straight line. If you have a curved wall you may want to use a hose. Blocks need to be laid tightly side by side and be level from front to back. Check continuously with a spirit level as the first course dictates the evenness of the entire wall.

CHECKLIST

- Retaining wall blocks, corners, caps
- Roadbase
- Coarse Washed Sand for bedding
- Agricultural Pipe & blue metal for drainage
- Blue metal & soil for backfill
- Adhesive for attacking caps
- Wheelbarrow
- Stakes & Stringline
- Spirit Level
- Rubber Mallet
- Bolster for cutting blocks if required
- Mechanical Plate Compactor - can be hired to compact base
- Personal Protective Equipment (e.g. safety boots, safety glasses, gloves)



HOW TO BUILD A RETAINING WALL

INSTALLING RETAINING WALLS REQUIRES A HIGH DEGREE OF PREPARATION AND CARE IN ORDER TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

STEP 4 INSTALL DRAINAGE & BACKFILL

As you progress with block laying install drainage and backfill as per manufacturer's instructions. You also may need to cut blocks or use halves to get the blocks staggered across the rows. Lay drainage material and backfill for every row of blocks. Do not wait until completion of the wall as it will be unstable.

STEP 5 CAPPING THE WALL

Some retaining walls are completed with a row of caps. These should be secured with a suitable adhesive.

