

RETAINING WALLS



1. Stake Out/Remove Sod



2. Add & Compact Base



3. Level Base



4. Lay and Level Blocks

1. Begin by staking out the wall you are building. For curved sections, use a garden hose to lay out the wall line. Dig a trench along this line. The width of the trench should be 14 inches. If you are going to use one, two or three courses of block, make the trench 4 inches deep, enough to bury half of the first course. If you are going to use four courses of block, make the trench 8 inches deep.
2. Prepare the base by firmly compacting the soil in the bottom of the trench and placing 2 inches of paver base in the bottom of the trench. For walls over 24 inches in total wall height, a minimum 4 inches of compacted paver base must be used for leveling the base.
3. Check the surface level in both directions with a carpenter's level.
4. Use hammer and chisel to remove the rear lips from all blocks used for the base course. Use string to align the back edges of the first course. Position the wall units side by side on the prepared base and check level in both directions with a carpenter's level. Continue assembling additional courses by placing units in a staggered relationship to the course beneath (running bond), pulling each unit forward until the rear lip is securely in contact with the units below.
5. Place filter fabric directly behind the wall extending from the bottom of the base course to the middle top course. Backfill each course with drainage aggregate and extend 6 inches behind the wall. Compact. Organic soil or clay-type soil is not recommended for backfill material.
6. To split a block, use a hammer and chisel to score the block on all sides. Pound the chisel on the score line until the block splits. To build a 90-degree corner, you will need to use a circular saw with a masonry blade. Cut a 45-degree angle on two blocks. Cut from a front corner to the back of the block. Glue pieces together (with construction glue) so two block faces form the finished outside corner. Read and understand the operating manual before using a saw.
7. For capping inside and outside curves, trim caps to follow the curve of the wall. Place a cap at the beginning of the curve. Skip a space and place the next cap in the third position. Rest a cap on the top of the original two, aligning its face with the face of the wall. Mark the bottom of the cap along the edges as shown. Use a circular saw with a masonry blade to cut the marked cap. Place the cap. On a 90-degree corner wall, the caps need to be saw-cut to achieve a 45-degree mitered corner.
8. Use an exterior concrete construction adhesive to secure the caps.

Always wear eye protection when splitting blocks.



5. Add Drainage Aggregate



6. Split Blocks



7. Mark and Cut Cap



8. Glue Cap

Tools and Materials Needed



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