

Retaining Wall Installation



Staking Out the Wall: Verify your wall location. Contact your local utility companies before you excavate to make sure there are no underground electrical wires or water pipes. Also, contact your local building inspector. A building permit may be required. Stake out the wall location to the lines and grades you selected. Excavate for the leveling pad. Remove enough soil behind the wall for the geogrid reinforcement if required. Your dealer representative can review geogrid installation requirements. However, we recommend consulting with a civil engineer for walls over 4 feet. The trench for the leveling pad should be at least 24" wide and 12" deep.

Leveling Pad: Place a good gravel-base material in the trench. The pad must extend 6" in front and 6" behind the first course of block. Compact the gravel base to a thickness of 6". Make sure it is level.



Setting your Base Course: This is the most important construction step in building a level wall. Begin laying your base course of block. Remove the rear lips so they will lay flat on the leveling pad.

Running A String Line: Run a string line along the back of the base course blocks to align the wall units.



Placing the Blocks Side-by-Side: Remember to begin laying block at the lowest elevation of the wall. Level front to back and side to side. Make sure your blocks remain level.



Backfilling and Compacting: When you complete your base course, backfill with gravel and compact. Make sure not to compact too close to the back of your base block.

Building Additional Courses: Clean any material off the block tops. Place the second course of block while maintaining running bond and pull each block forward until the rear lip touches the back of the block below.



Backfilling: Backfill with drain aggregate directly behind the block. Repeat this step until your wall reaches your planned height.

Placing the Cap Block: Brush off the top of your wall blocks. Begin laying your cap from the lowest elevation with the split facing the front. Dry lay the cap until you reach the end of your wall. Cut the cap to fit where necessary. Adhere the cap to the block using a recommended concrete adhesive.



Other Considerations: *Drainage design. Geogrid reinforcement.* Each project is unique. Grades, water tables, soil conditions, level backfill and surcharge of slopes. It is our recommendation to consult your local dealer representative to review these considerations before construction begins. For walls over 4' a civil engineer must be considered for design and proper geogrid placements. Consult any of our estimating and installation manuals for drainage design and geogrid installation instructions.

