

WALL BLOCK INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

These instructions are intended as a general guide for walls less than 4 feet ONLY.

Please consult the specs of the specific block you are using for more detailed instructions. For more do-it-yourself info, or help locating a contractor to build your walls, please ask the Sharecost Rentals & Sales staff.

STEP 1 DIG TRENCH

Start by marking the wall footprint with inverted marking paint. Dig out a trench that is a minimum of 6" deep plus one inch for every foot of wall height. Allow 12" of space behind the wall for drain pipe and Road Base.

The width of the trench will vary between 18" and 24" depending on the size of the wall block.

STEP 2 BASE PREPARATION

After digging the trench, set up a leveled string line at the back of the trench. The string line is set at the desired height of the first course of blocks. Add 3" of Road Base into the trench. **Use a 135-pound mechanical plate compactor for small walls and 200-pound plate for larger walls to tamp down the base.** Continue adding Road Base and compacting until the desired elevation (based off the string-line) is achieved. **Spend extra time here getting the base as level as possible, front to back and side to side.**

Your next job is to place blocks on this base and get them EXACTLY level.

STEP 3 BASE COURSE

Lay the base course of retaining wall blocks. Place units side-by-side on the compacted Road Base. **As you lay the blocks, check that EVERY block is levelled, front to back and side to side.** If one block is off-level - even by a miniscule amount - this error will be multiplied as additional courses are added. **For walls that step up with grade you must start laying blocks at the lowest level first; otherwise always start at a corner (if there is one).**

Complete the entire base course before proceeding to the second course.

Important Note: Take your time on this base course of block. If these blocks are not EXACTLY level (both front to back and side to side) the rest of the wall will look poorly done.

STEP 4 INSTALL DRAIN PIPE

Lay filter fabric behind the first course of blocks. Place 4" perforated PVC pipe on fabric, directly behind the blocks, sloped downhill towards the desired run-off area. Add 3/4" drain rock on top of PVC pipe so there is 4"-6" of stone on top of the pipe. Fold filter fabric back around the stone so it is completely surrounded. **This step is critically important:** water trapped during freeze/thaw cycles has pushed over many retaining wall installations.

STEP 5 BACKFILL BASE COURSE

After your first course of blocks and drain pipe are laid, fill the block cores and backfill behind the blocks with Road Base. **Use a 135- or 200-pound plate compactor and compact the gravel behind the blocks.** Do not compact directly on the first row of blocks: just compact the backfill.

STEP 6 ADDITIONAL COURSES

Start placing the second course. **Offset the vertical block joints to build a strong wall.** Continue building to desired height. This stage should go quite quickly as long as the first course is level. Clean the blocks as you go, making sure there is no sand or grit between additional layers of block, as this will also cause the wall to go out of level. **Backfill every course with Road Base; use the compactor to tamp both the Road Base and the blocks themselves.**

STEP 7 FINAL BACKFILL

Fill the final row of hollow block cores with Road Base. **Backfill behind the final (top) course with soil.**

STEP 8 CAPS

You will want to finish the wall with a final course of cap units. **Secure the caps to the top course of the wall with Titebond® retaining wall adhesive.** Simply use a caulking gun to lay a bead of adhesive on the top of the wall blocks, then press the caps down firmly into place.

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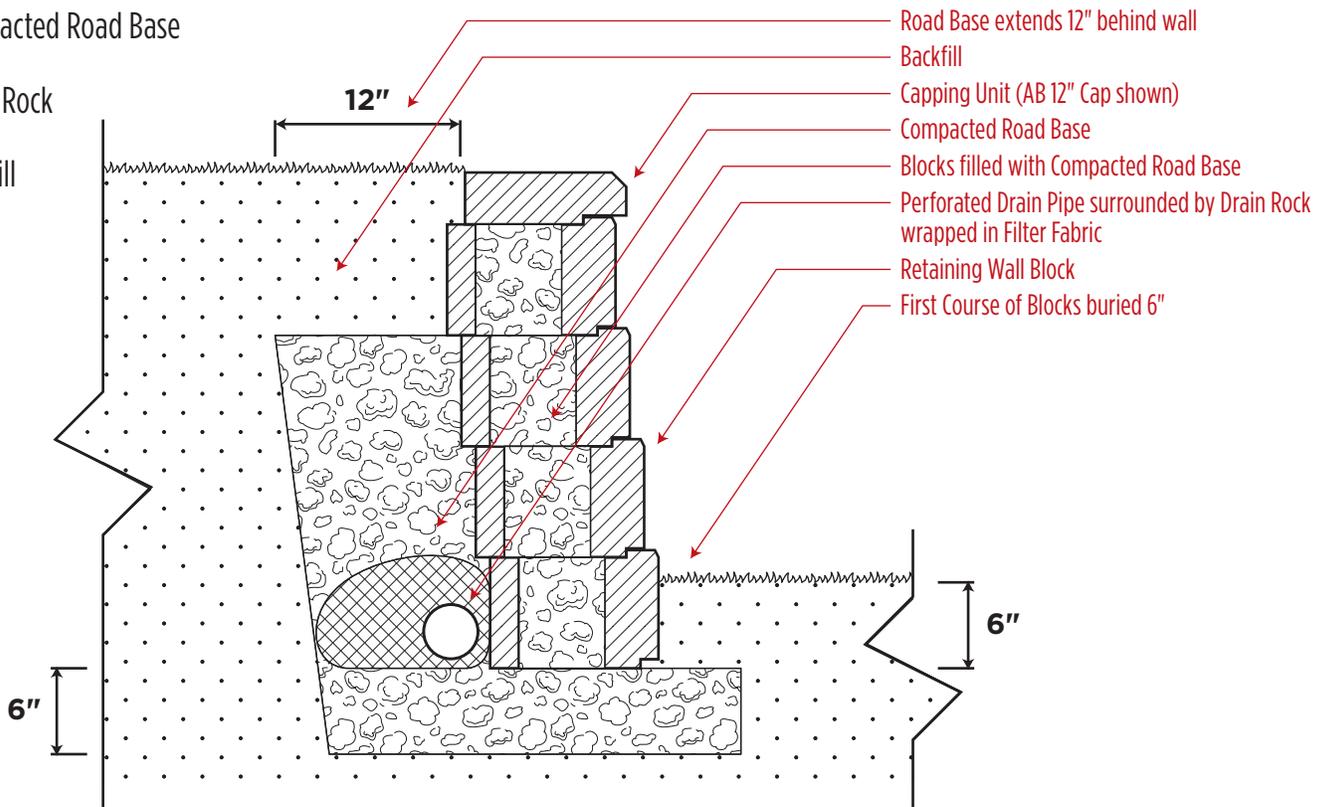
CROSS-SECTION

 Retaining Wall Block/Cap

 Compacted Road Base

 Drain Rock

 Backfill



MATERIALS CHECKLIST

STEP 1 DIG TRENCH

- Inverted Marking Paint
- Gloves
- Rakes
- Wheelbarrows
- String-Line Level
- Mini-Excavator
- Laser Level
- Hammer
- Shovels
- Mattock
- String-Line
- Rebar Stakes
- Bobcat Loader

STEP 2 BASE PREP

- Road Base
- 135-pound or 200-pound Plate Compactor

STEP 3 BASE COURSE

- Wall Blocks
- Torpedo Level
- 4-foot Level
- Rubber Mallet

STEP 4 INSTALL DRAIN PIPE

- Drainage Pipe
- 3/4" Drain Rock
- Filter Fabric

STEP 5 BACKFILL BASE COURSE

- Road Base
- 135-pound or 200-pound Plate Compactor

STEP 6 ADDITIONAL COURSES

- Broom
- Geogrid (walls over four feet)
- 135-pound or 200-pound Plate Compactor
- Road Base

STEP 7 FINAL BACKFILL

- Top soil
- Road Base

STEP 8 INSTALL CAPS

- Masonry Saw
- Caulking Gun
- Titebond® Retaining Wall Adhesive
- Safety Glasses

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