

Retaining Wall Block (Shutter Finish) Installation Guidelines Manual

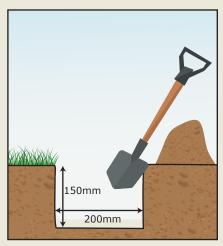


RETAINING WALL BLOCK INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

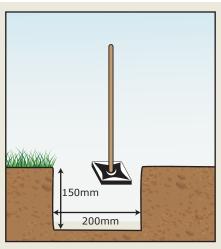
Retaining Wall Block (Shutter Finish) installation guidelines

- SmartStone recommends the Retaining Wall Block (Shutter Finish) for walls with a maximum height of 12 blocks (approximately 1.4m).
- These guidelines assume that the area has good compactable soil. Unstable, muddy or sandy soils may require consultation with an engineer.
- Use nylon guidelines for construction.
- This retaining wall block can be installed on curves and corners, but more care and skill will be required.
- If an existing area needs to be contained (when constructing a terrace, for instance), cut back the soil to be contained by at least 1m.

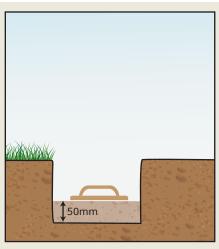
Please note: These guidelines are not relevant when constructing a wall for a new area of containment (for example, a flower box).



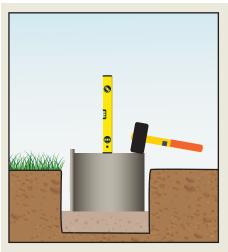
1. Excavate the topsoil where blocks will be installed to at least 150mm deep and 200mm wide.



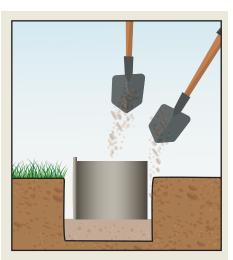
2. Compact the floor of the excavated area.



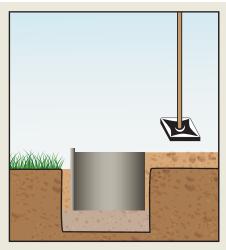
3. Construct and level a 50mm bedding layer with moist river sand or a mix of moist river sand and cement (4:1).



4. Bed and level the bottom layer of the blocks. Use a rubber mallet and spirit



5. Backfill the foundation around the bottom row of blocks with soil and compact as well as possible.

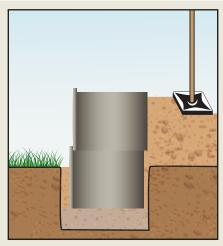


6. Backfill the foundation around the bottom row of blocks with soil and compact as well as possible.

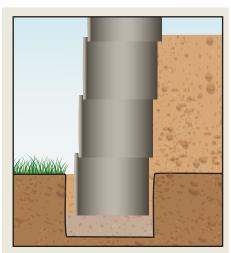
Please note:

- Compaction is the most important part of retaining wall construction. The soil contained must be well compacted.
- A jumping jack tamper is recommended for compaction, but for small walls a hand stamper is a practical solution. Do not compact soil in layers of more than 150mm. After installing each row of blocks, fill up to level and compact.
- With each layer, ensure block cavities are also filled with soil.
- The Retaining Wall Block (Shutter Finish) is not suitable for load-bearing soil containment such as parking areas or building on top of the contained area.

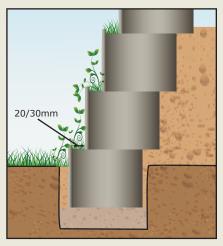
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7. Place the next layer of blocks above, ensuring there is no soil or debris trapped between them and compact behind the layer.



8. Repeat this process until the wall is at the desired height.



9. For planting inside block cavities, set rows 20-30mm back.

SmartStone recommends a stretcher bond laying pattern. This is where blocks overlap the joints of the preceding row. Bear in mind that this might require cutting on the edges in every second row. Create half-blocks for this purpose. Make use of a masonry saw or angle grinder with a diamond-tipped blade. These half-blocks could be filled with concrete, in order to provide more strength.

