

# A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO LAYING WALLING

## Building a Wall with Madoc or Mountain Block

Before excavating, make sure there are no utility lines in the area. Obtain any required permits and consult an engineer if you are uncertain about the proper design for your application. These instructions are meant as guidelines under ideal site conditions. Madoc and Mountain Block are intended for garden use only and should not be used to retain ground that supports driveways or buildings.

- 1) Mark out the area for your wall or pier, strip topsoil, and dig deep enough to accommodate your leveling pad and buried block. Use a string line behind the block to maintain alignment.
- 2) One course of block should be buried below grade for wall stability. The leveling pad should be a minimum of 16" wide, with the block centered on the leveling pad. Pier foundations should extend at least 4" beyond the finished pier dimensions on all sides. The leveling pad shall be a minimum of 4" thick and the material used shall be well compacted crushed aggregates (¾ minus gravel or recycled concrete aggregate).
- 3) Spread up to a 1" layer of coarse concrete sand or screenings to help level the block.
- 4) It is recommended that you start building your wall at a corner and work outward from there. Lay the base course first, using a level on each block and across adjacent blocks. Check for level from left to right and front to back on each block. Use a level string line on each course for additional accuracy.
- 5) Maximum exposed wall height for Madoc and Mountain Block should be 24". Piers and corners will give your wall additional stability. Piers can be built to a maximum height of 48".

## Additional Requirements for Madoc Walls:

Use a high strength concrete adhesive between each course of block, running a bead horizontally down the center of each block.

Use 12" of clean stone behind the block for drainage in earth retaining applications, and a landscape fabric behind the wall for planter boxes to maintain a clean wall face.

## Additional Requirements for Mountain Block Walls

Once the first course is in place, install additional courses to build the wall higher, staggering the joints as you go. Make sure that you place each block across the joints of the two blocks below and that the retaining nib always sits firmly behind the lower block. Before starting a new course, check that the previous course is level and is completely backfilled. Note: correct placement of the retaining nib will result in a 'setback' of 1/2" per course. Corners will give your wall additional stability.

Backfill behind each course of block, except the last course, with at least 12" of clean stone for drainage. Make sure that any 'V-shaped voids' between the blocks are also filled.

Finish the wall with a layer of Mountain Block coping to give your wall a thoroughly professional look. Secure the coping in position using a high strength flexible concrete adhesive, taking care not to get adhesive on the face of the blocks. Alternatively, leave the wall uncapped for a rustic appearance.

