

LAYING WALLING BLOCKS

When building a wall, start by building up the ends of the wall over the level foundations to approximately three or four courses.

Important: If you plan to build a retaining wall higher than 600mm or for any wall over 900mm, we recommend that you seek expert advice on its structure. The general rule is that the depth is equivalent to between 1/4 and 1/3 of the wall's height: the foundation width should be two or three times the wall's width. If you are building on an existing concrete base or patio, go straight to step 4. Otherwise:

STEP 1: Strip topsoil, dig to firm ground and measure out the area.

STEP 2: Lay level concrete foundations using 6 parts all-in ballast to 1 part cement.

STEP 3: Stretch a building line between the ends and build one course at a time, using a spirit level to check for accuracy vertically, diagonally and horizontally.

STEP 4: Spread mortar made from 3 to 4 parts building sand to one part cement evenly over the foundations using a trowel.

STEP 5: Use the trowel to spread the mortar over the blocks. The mortar should slightly exude from between the joints and any surplus should be cut off with the trowel. Remember to fill the vertical joints as you go by applying mortar to one end of the block before positioning it adjacent to the previously laid block. The blocks should be laid in stretcher bond - you will need to use a club hammer and sharp bolster to cut some blocks.

STEP 6: Only build between 6 to 8 courses at a time, allowing the mortar to set before starting to build again.

STEP 7: Use a pointing trowel to smooth and finish the mortar joints.

Photography

Left to right
Laying walling block

Checking levels

