

 **BRADSTONE**



Laying walling blocks

Step by step guide

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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.

Laying decorative stone

- Decorative stone can be laid directly onto soil but Bradstone recommend you use a landscape fabric as this will minimise weed growth.
- You should ensure there is a minimum of 50mm overlap between the sheets of landscape fabric.
- Lay the stones to the depth required (50mm is sufficient for most garden applications).
- Rake to achieve a level surface.

Laying edging

- Edging can be laid directly onto soil but it will be more stable if you lay it in mortar.
- Dig a trench for the foundations.
- Use 6 parts all-in ballast to 1 part cement for the foundations.
- Lay the edging in mortar made from 3 to 4 parts building sand to 1 part cement.
- Gently tap the edging in, using a spirit level to ensure it is level.
- Back fill the edging with mortar.

