

GETTING STARTED

Excavate

Dig out the area behind where your wall will go to allow for backfill. Then dig a trench along the line of your wall's planned base to the width and depth shown in the table (see Fig.1).

System	Width	Depth required	Maximum height in meters
Ezi Wall®	300mm	150mm	0.5M
Sedona Stone®	300mm	150mm	0.5M
Garden Wall®	450mm	150mm	0.7M
Country Manor®	550mm	200mm	0.65M near vertical
Country Manor®	550mm	200mm	0.95M 9.5° batter
Country Manor®	550mm	200mm	> 1.0M specific design

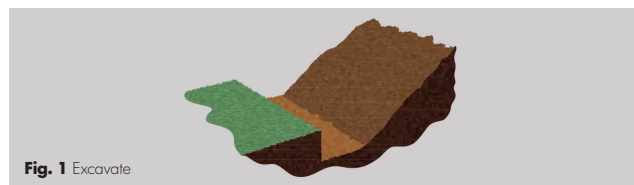


Fig. 1 Excavate

Preparing a Level Base

Compact the soil in the base of your trench. Then add compactable base course (fine gravel) to the trench and compact until firm and level (for Firth Ezi Wall® / Sedona Stone® /Garden Wall®) to a depth of 150mm. For Country Manor a depth of 200mm is required. Check this both ways with a level and stringline to make sure your wall will be built on a good foundation (see Fig.2).



Fig. 2 Making a level base

The First Layer

Getting the first layer perfectly level is critical to the accuracy of your wall. For Sedona and Garden Wall, chisel the locator lips off the blocks for the first layer prior to laying. Place the first layer of blocks on the prepared base, making sure that each block is in full contact with the base course and level from side to side and front to back. Stringline the back of the first layer to verify straightness. On sloping sites always start from the lowest point and work upwards (see Fig.3).



Fig. 3 The first layer

Preparing Drainage

If the wall is going to be over 3 layers, place a drainage coil (65 or 100mm diameter) behind the first "above ground" layer of the wall. Extend the coil away from the wall to ensure good drainage. Connect the coil to the nearest silt trap.



Fig. 4 Laying and backfilling

Laying & Backfilling

Make sure the top of each layer of blocks is perfectly level and free of aggregate and soil before laying the next layer of blocks. Lay subsequent layers of blocks by pulling each unit forward so that the rear lip engages with the blocks below. Each unit should be offset by half a unit below to maintain a "running bond" pattern.

As each layer is finished, backfill with free drainage aggregate extending out 150mm for Eziwall/Sedona Stone and Garden Wall. 300mm for Country Manor and compact. Do not use topsoil or clay material as backfill. As you build your wall, fill the cavity behind it. Ensure all cavities within each unit and gaps between are filled with free drainage aggregate. Backfilling and compaction should be carried out in 150mm to 200mm layers (see Fig.4).



Fig. 5 Final touches

Final Touches

Once your wall reaches the desired height, use the compactor to firmly compact and fill behind the wall. Do not use the compactor on the wall itself. If using Ezi Wall®, affix the capping units to the top of the wall using a building adhesive. If using Country Manor® use the capping block and pins. If you plan to have a garden level with the top of your wall, backfill and compact to below the desired depth of your bed then add topsoil to the wall level (see Fig.5).

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PlaceMakers®

KNOW HOW GUIDE

BUILDING A CONCRETE BLOCK RETAINING WALL



Firth

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

A retaining wall is a great way to improve the look of your lawn and garden. It can be a beautiful feature as well as the perfect way to create a flat lawn on a sloping section.

However, because retaining walls have an important job to do, we advise you to call in an expert for any wall over 900mm high.

The Law

Before you start any landscaping or building project, it's important you make sure the finished job will comply with the building code and council regulations. For full information on the regulations applying to your area, consult with your local council.

Let's Make a Plan

Do a scale drawing of the area that you want to retain. From that, estimate the quantities you need. Remember some extra materials will be required for cutting, depending on the size and shape of the area.

Ideas & Inspiration



TOOLS

- Tape measure
- Hammer
- Pencil
- Masonry chisel
- Stakes & stringline
- Safety glasses
- Spirit level
- Gloves
- Spade
- Compactor
- Shovel
- Wheelbarrow

MATERIALS

Buy all your retaining wall blocks from one place and from the same batch if possible, to avoid differences in colour that can result from different batches. Blocks may also display a "whitening" effect otherwise known as efflorescence. This is a characteristic of many masonry products and does diminish over time.

If you can't buy all blocks from one batch, mix the units up before laying. If you have any trouble working out the quantities of the blocks you need, PlaceMakers offers a free estimation service.

Like any building job, you've got to get the foundations right. A large retaining wall will require large volumes of materials.

There are three main materials: retaining wall blocks, base course material & drainage aggregate.

Range & Styles

Firth retaining wall blocks feature a unique rear lip to eliminate guesswork, speed installation and deliver a uniform setback.



Ezi Wall® is a two-piece system with a split face texture that gives great design flexibility.

Ezi Wall Block 160/120 x 140 x 125mm, weight 5.5kg

Ezi Wall Capper 160/120 x 140 x 125mm, weight 5.5kg

Available in colour: Rockface, Volcanic Ash & Onyx



Sedona Stone® has straight & bevelled keycut face texture that gives great design flexibility.

Sedona Stone 200 x 135 x 100mm, weight 5.4kg

Available in colour: Rockface



Garden Wall® has straight & bevelled, split face that enables construction of inside curves, outside curves & straight walls.

Garden Wall 300 x 230/215 x 100mm, weight 13kg

Available in colour: Rockface



Country Manor® has keycut face texture that enables construction of inside curves, outside curves & straight walls.

Small Unit 100/150 x 250 x 150mm, weight 11kg

Medium Unit 250/300 x 250 x 150mm, weight 18kg

Large Unit 350/400 x 250 x 150mm, weight 27kg

Capping Unit 250/300 x 280 x 75mm, weight 12kg

Available in colour: Rockface



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