Hidden Benefits of the AB Collection

The AB Collection has many different block options to choose from that offers a classic cut stone look and feel to the project. The smaller blocks of the collection - AB Jumbo Junior, AB Junior Lite and AB Lite Stone are perfect to build small to medium sized garden or landscape walls. The larger blocks - All Stone and AB Classic are great for any application, but work best for medium to large landscape or commercial walls. With the blocks being modular, you can also blend them together to build patterned walls with an awesome "wow" factor.

In the AB Collection you will find our signature block - AB Stones. This is a great choice for any wall construction project. The built-in setback delivers great leverage, performance and stability. AB Stones is the leader of the pack - the first block of the AB Collection and the unsung hero of the segmental retaining wall world.

No other product on the market can offer the same efficient performance and durability, while creating solutions with lasting beauty. With a 12° nominal setback, retaining walls using AB Stones can be built taller in good soil before reinforcement is necessary. This saves you time and money.

When planning your project, check out allanblock.com for all of the great ideas, videos, tools and much more and see for yourself the benefits of using AB Stones from the AB Collection of products.

Here are just a few things you can be sure to find at allanblock.com:

• Photo Gallery
• Video Gallery
• Estimating Tools
• Product Details - Colors, Styles and Sizes
• Installation Guides & Tech Sheets
• Training Events
• Answers to FAQs
• Find a Dealer Near You

At allanblock.com you will find everything you need to plan, design and build with Allan Block products. We work hard to continually improve the look, feel and content of our website so that you can be confident to find what you need with just the click of a button.

Take a look around...we think you will like what you see.

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We had a great time this weekend working on our backyard project. Bobby continued his research, watching all of the Allan Block website and some of the How-To videos and determined if this was a project they could tackle or if they would need to hire a contractor. Having never installed pavers or retaining walls, they imagined and created their very own paradise.

Entertaining family and friends was an important element they considered when redesigning their space. With large extended families on both sides, they needed an area that could easily accommodate a large group, and still feel intimate. Knowing that their friends, they would need to hire a contractor.

When it came time to tackle their landscaping, they started researching on the internet and magazines and determined one more item to get it just the way they wanted. They began their backyard makeover. The patio began their backyard overhaul. The patio area was completely redoing every aspect from top to bottom to make it just the way they wanted. They considered when redesigning their space. With large extended families on both sides, they needed an area that could easily accommodate a large group, and still feel intimate. Knowing that their friends, they would need to hire a contractor.

W hen it came time to tackle their landscaping, they started researching on the internet and magazines and determined if this was a project they could tackle or if they would need to hire a contractor. Having never installed pavers or retaining walls, they imagined and created their very own paradise.

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Proper soils and compaction = Building on Solid Ground

Building an Allan Block wall is not rocket science, but does take some knowledge about the materials you are working with. As with most things, the better the materials are, the easier the entire job is.

Lets Start with Soils

Understanding the properties and characteristics of soils is key to building better walls. Different soil types will dictate the amount of time needed for compaction, the amount of reinforcement required, and potentially the cost of the wall. Granular soils are better to build with than clay soils. Sand and gravel will compress, better drain, and often will need less reinforcement. With some job sites choosing their soil is not an option, it is what makes up your site, but knowing what needs to be done with the type of soil you have will ease your project.

Clay soils put more pressure on an wall than sandy soils because they hold moisture. To identify the soils, a good test is to pick up a small handful of the soil from at least 12 in. (300 mm) away from the surface and square it to form a ball. See the description of different soils below and how you can tell if this is the kind of soil you have and how best to use it.

Wall Rock

The soils used below and behind the wall are a critical part of the total structure. A granular soil will drain faster, cost less, and will not necessitate any type of drainage. A granular soil will facilitate quality compaction. Placement and compaction in lifts that exceed 8 in. (200 mm) will result in less than adequate soil strength. Compaction equipment must be used according to the type of material being compacted. Always buildup and compact after each course of block is laid. Consult with a local equipment supplier to ensure that proper compaction equipment is used.

Proper placem ent and compaction of the infill soils is critical. The most important step in getting proper compaction is the placement of the soil in lifts. Compacting in lifts, or layers, of less than 8 in. (200 mm) will facilitate quality compaction. Placement and compaction in lifts that exceed 8 in. (200 mm) will result in less than adequate soil strength. Compaction equipment must be used according to the type of material being compacted. Always buildup and compact after each course of block is laid. Consult with a local equipment supplier to ensure that proper compaction equipment is used.

The consolidation area runs from the back of the block back 3 ft. (0.9 m) into the infill soil. Only wall behind plate compaction equipment is allowed within the consolidation zone. A minimum of two passes with a wall behind plate compactor is required starting on top of the block and compacting in paths that run parallel with the wall to the back of the excavation area.

Building a Solid Foundation

If the on-site soils are of a very low quality under or behind the wall, you should replace them with stronger soils. Using stronger soils will reduce reinforcement, allow faster compaction and have better long-term performance. Heavy clay and organic soils are both unstable in the reinforced zone and should be removed and replaced. Silty sands and silts with clay will require additional care, and attention to water management when placed and compacted.

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Weekend Projects. Bobby continued his research, watched all of Allan Block’s How-To videos and then changed their original design entirely after seeing all of the options that would need to hire a contractor.

Don went over all of the product options available to them from watching the videos and some of what they wanted—paver patio, retaining walls, and beautiful landscaping for the area. Having never installed pavers or retaining walls, they were excited.

Armed with How-To videos in hand, soon after, from watching the clay soils put more pressure on a wall than sandy soils because they hold moisture. To identify the soils, a good test is to pick up a small handful of the soil from at least 12 in. (300 mm) below the surface and squeeze it to form a ball. See the description of different soils below and how you can tell the difference and where they are best used.

The soils used below and behind the wall are a critical part of the total wall structure. A retaining landscape wall contains four basic building materials—the Allan Blocks, wall rock, geogrid reinforcement (if required), and the infill soils surrounding the geogrid layers. During the installation process, use wall rock to create the leading pad below the wall, the blocks above the wall a minimum of 12 in. (300 mm). See the description of what wall rock consists of below.

Building a Solid Foundation

If the on-site soils are an old wall or are a very low quality under or behind the wall, you should remove and replace them with stronger soils. Using stronger soils will reduce reinforcement, allow easier construction and have better long-term performance. Heavy clay and organic soils are both unstable in the reinforced zone and should be removed and replaced. Silty sand and sand will require additional care, and attention to water management when placed and compacted.

Proper Soils and Compaction = Building on Solid Ground

Bobby and Kristy Loff are Do-It-Yourselves to the extreme. Purchasing a home in New Jersey back in 2003, they spent years completely redoing every aspect from top to bottom to get it just the way they wanted.

When it came to tackling their landscaping, they started researching on the internet and magazines to determine what they wanted—paver patio, retaining and beautiful planting to accent the space—a mix combining both years. From 2003 they completed every aspect from top to bottom to get it just the way they wanted.

Purchasing a home in New Jersey back in 2003, they spent 6 years completely redoing every aspect from top to bottom to get it just the way they wanted.

The Loffs love their new outdoor space and without the extended families on both sides, they needed an area that would be able to accommodate a large group, and still feel intimate.

Entertaining family and friends was an important element they considered when redrawing their space. With large extended families on both sides, they needed an area that could easily accommodate a large group, and still feel intimate. With proper soils and compaction the wall is critical. The most important step in getting proper compaction is the placement of the wall itself. Compacting in lifts, or layers, of less than 8 in. (200 mm) will facilitate quality compaction. Placement and compaction in lifts that exceed 8 in. (200 mm) result in less than adequate soil strength. Compaction equipment must be used according to the type of material being compacted. Abundant ballast and compact after each course of block. Place with a local equipment supplier to ensure that proper compaction equipment is used.

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Let’s Start with Soils

Understanding the properties and characteristics of soils is key to building better walls. Different soil types will dictate the amount of time needed for compaction, the amount of reinforcement required, and potentially the cost of the wall. Granular soils are better to build with than clay soils. Sand and gravel will compact better, drain better, and often will need less reinforcement. With some job sites choosing their soil is not an option, it is what makes up your site, but knowing what needs to be done with the type of soil you have will create good results.

Clay soils put more pressure on a wall than sandy soils because they hold moisture. To identify the soils, a good test is to pick up a small handful of the soil from at least 12 in. (300 mm) below the surface and squeeze it to form a ball. See the description of different soils below and how you can tell the difference and where they are best used.

Wall Rock

The soils used below and behind the wall is a critical part of the total wall structure. A retaining landscape wall contains four basic building materials—the Allan Blocks, wall rock, geogrid reinforcement (if required), and the infill soils surrounding the geogrid layers. During the installation process, use wall rock to create the leading pad below the wall, the blocks above the wall a minimum of 12 in. (300 mm). See the description of what wall rock consists of below.

Building a Solid Foundation

If the on-site soils are of a very low quality under or behind the wall, you should remove and replace them with stronger soils. Using stronger soils will reduce reinforcement, allow easier construction and have better long-term performance. Heavy clay and organic soils are both unstable in the reinforced zone and should be removed and replaced. Silty sand and sand will require additional care, and attention to water management when placed and compacted.

Properly built and properly compacted Allan Block wall structures will perform. Know the soils and their characteristics before you start your project. Stage the wall with the right type of equipment and always build one course at a time, compacting in 8 in. (200 mm) maximum lifts.

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Rock (Wall Rock)
The soils used below and behind the wall are a critical part of the total wall structure. A reinforced landscape wall contains four basic building materials - the A/B blocks, wall rock, project reinforcement (if required), and the soil fill surrounding the geogrid layers. During the installation process, use wall rock to create the leading edge pad below the wall, the soil behind the wall and behind the wall a minimum of 12 in. (300 mm). See the description of what wall rock consists of below.

Building a Solid Foundation
If the site soils are of a very low quality or underlain by a wall, you should remove and replace them with stronger soils. Using stronger soils will reduce reinforcement, allow faster construction and have better long-term performance. Heavy clay and organic soils are both unsuitable in the reinforced zone and should be removed and replaced. Silty sands and sand will require additional care, and attention to water management when placed and compacted.

Proper Soils and Compaction = Building on Solid Ground

**Building on Solid Ground**
Proper compaction of the soil is critical. The most important step in getting proper compaction is the placement of the soil. Compaction in lifts, of less than 8 in. (200 mm) will facilitate quality compaction. Placement and compaction in lifts that exceed 8 in. (200 mm) will result in less than adequate soil strength.

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**Proper placement and compaction of the soil is critical.**

Properly built and properly compacted Allan Block wall structures will perform. Know the soils and their characteristics before you start your project.

An example of a wall using geogrid reinforcement is shown in the picture that runs parallel with the wall to the back of the foundation. Pressure built and properly compacted Allan Block wall structures will perform. Know the soils and their characteristics before you start your project.

**Properly built and properly compacted Allan Block wall structures will perform.**

For more information on properly built Allan Block walls, see our installations. Guides or visit our website at allanblock.com.

Find it all at allanblock.com.
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Allan Block has gone social - Check us out on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, watch us on YouTube and read our blog at allanblockblog.com for the latest information.

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