Make the Best Choice for Your Landscape

There are many different options to choose from when you need a retaining wall. Here is a quick visual comparison of the different types of products to help you make the best choice for your landscaping.

Don’t Forget About AB Courtyard

What is the AB Courtyard Collection®? It is a stackable system that can be used to create two-sided vertical patio walls. It can also be used to build landscape accents like entry posts as in the cover article, create a fire pit, pond, outdoor kitchen, benches and much more. It is a very versatile product with unlimited design options.

Another great use of AB Courtyard is to enclose patios to create new outdoor rooms. Use an existing patio or use the Allan Block Retaining Wall products to create a raised patio as shown in the picture below. By using the same Allan Block products, you can create a finished project with matching colors and styles to create a space that is perfect for entertaining family and friends for years to come.

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Did you know?

Allan Block has gone social - Check us out on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, watch us on You Tube and read our blog at allanblockblog.com for the latest information.

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® 2011 Allan Block Corporation, Eden, MN. Treated Wood: #683-282/ #683-33/ #683-34, #683-40, #683-42. Mortarless Block: SRW-99, #683-282/ #683-33/ #683-34, #683-40, #683-42. Mortared Block: #683-282/ #683-33/ #683-34, #683-40, #683-42. Cast-In-Place Concrete: #683-282/ #683-33/ #683-34, #683-40, #683-42. Natural Stone: #683-282/ #683-33/ #683-34, #683-40, #683-42. Mortared Concrete Block: #683-282/ #683-33/ #683-34, #683-40, #683-42. Cast-In-Place Concrete: #683-282/ #683-33/ #683-34, #683-40, #683-42. Veneer Stone: #683-282/ #683-33/ #683-34, #683-40, #683-42. Product durability: no no no no no no no no no no no no. Low cost materials: no no no no no no no no no no no no. Contractor profitability: no no no no no no no no no no no no. Contractor profitability: no no no no no no no no no no no no. Average Costs/Sq. Ft: $15 - $25, $18 - $25, $25 - $40, $15 - $30, $30 - $40, $40 - $70.

Inside:

• Update Your Point of View
• Make The Best Choice By Comparison
• Check Out The Retaining Wall Products from Allan Block
The Retaining Wall Products from Allan Block - Different Looks for Different Styles

While it’s nice to think that people don’t really notice or care about it, the reality is that our neighbors pay a lot of attention to the outside of our homes. They can love you to pieces but still wish you’d do something about your sagging steps or overgrown landscaping. The curb appeal of your home affects you, too – just think about every time you leave the house and come home again, do you see a “home” or a list of undone chores and maintenance?

So how do you make your house look more like a home? This is the exact question our homeowners asked themselves when they came to the realization that their rotting timber retaining wall was the eyesore of the neighborhood. With a front entry like theirs, these homeowners knew that they could not simply replace the failing wall and stairway without putting some thought into it. Having chosen a timber wall during the home building process years ago, they now knew that it was not the best choice. After doing some research and cost comparisons, they decided building a concrete retaining wall and stairway would not only be visually exciting, but would stand the test of time. They will not have to worry about the expense of replacing their entryway again.

Their landscape contractor designed a series of walls and stairs to provide a seamless transition from the driveway to the front door. They also included some planting areas to soften and accentuate the new walls. The contractor had Amcon Block of St. Cloud, MN deliver the product to the jobsite and the project was completed in a couple of weeks. Using the entire AB Collection of products, they blended the four different block shapes together to create an AB Ashlar Blend Pattern for a beautiful style that complemented the home. A pair of entry posts were added using the AB Courtyard Collection to give the entrance an inviting path to the front door. The homeowner’s house is more than just a “home”, they are now the neighbors’ to “keep up with”.

The AB® Collection - The Crisp Clean Lines of Cut Stone

The AB® Collection is the perfect choice for clean lines and adding the refined look of classic beauty to your landscape. There are five different block shapes to choose from or blend some of them together to create the look you desire in your project.

The AB Europa® Collection - The Aged Time-Worn Feel of Tumbled Stone

The AB Europa Collection captures the feel of days gone by with an elegant rustic charm. You can create your own picturesque landscape by using the block shapes individually or by blending the four different block sizes together.

The AB Fieldstone® Collection - The Subtle Texture and Beauty of Natural Stone

The AB Fieldstone Collection is an innovative new retaining wall block that is made with recycled materials (Green), has the look of natural stone (Natural) and is a two-piece system that makes it lighter and easier to install (Friendly).

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Taking Your Front Yard from Basic to Fabulous

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The contemporary feel of the AB Collection is a great choice for any landscape.

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The unique texture of the AB Europa Collection creates a stunning look.

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Green, Natural and Friendly

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The natural beauty and the environmentally friendly appeal of the AB Fieldstone Collection is sure to please.

Now you can quickly learn how to Plan, Design and Build your own Allan Block project. All our retaining wall products use the same easy to follow steps from base prep to capping.
The Retaining Wall Products from Allan Block - Different Looks for Different Styles

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Create Your Own Captivating Landscape

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Make the Best Choice for Your Landscape

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![Comparison Chart of Retaining Wall Systems]

- **Mortared Block-SRW**
- **Treated Wood**
- **Natural Stone**
- **Mortarless Block**
- **Concrete Block**
- **Cast-In-Place Concrete**

The comparison chart below highlights the features of the different retaining wall systems. Once you have made your choice, contact a properly trained contractor to ensure you receive the best results for your project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Durability</th>
<th>Unlimited design options</th>
<th>Easy to install</th>
<th>No footing required below frost depth</th>
<th>Wall flexibility</th>
<th>Low cost materials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allan Block SRW</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortarless Block</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Stone</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortared Block-SRW</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cast-In-Place Concrete</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Applications**: Residential, Commercial
- **Suitability**: Easy, Moderate, Difficult

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Another great use of AB Courtyard is to enclose patios to create new outdoor rooms. Use an existing patio or use the Allan Block Retaining Wall products to create a raised patio as shown in the pictures below. By using the same Allan Block products, you can create a finished project with matching colors and styles to create a space that is perfect for entertaining family and friends for years to come.

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Allan Block
SRW
Treated Wood
Natural Stone
Boulders
Mortared Concrete Block
Cast-In-Place Concrete

A llan Block Landsca pes
Newsletter for the Landscape Professional
Issue 32

Inside:

- **Update Your Point Yard**
- **Make The Best Choice By Comparison**
- **Check Out The Retaining Wall Products from Allan Block**

Did you Know?
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<th>Mortarless Block-SRW</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Product durability</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unlimited design options</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy to install</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needing reinforcement</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wall flexibility</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low cost materials</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applications</td>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contractor profitability</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contractor growth potential</td>
<td>✓</td>
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Check out our website at allanblock.com for all kinds of ideas for building with the products from AB.

AB Courtyard features:
- Creating two-sided vertical patio walls
- Building landscape accents like entry posts, firepits, ponds, outdoor kitchens, benches
- Creating new outdoor rooms by encasing existing patios
- Flexible design options

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Additional Features:
- Creating new outdoor rooms by encasing existing patios
- Flexible design options
- Unlimited design options
- Easy to install
- Low cost materials
- Applications for residential and commercial projects
- Contractor profitability and growth potential
- Average costs ranging from $15 to $70 per square foot

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