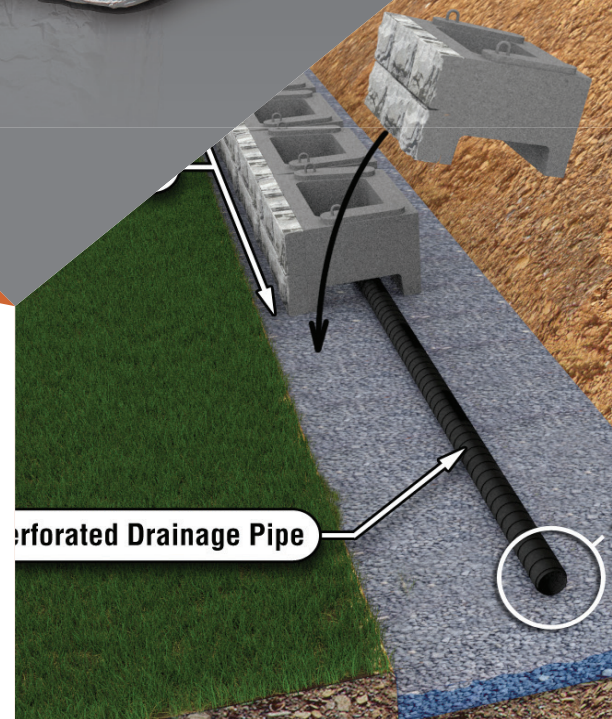


Design Manual: Installation

Section 4



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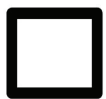




Installation Setup

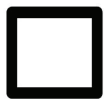
This installation manual is designed to provide general information and assist in the proper techniques required to build Verti-Block™ walls. The manual covers the basics of wall construction and contains many of the details encountered in site work. Before you start construction, take the time to complete necessary planning and preparation. This process will help ensure a safe, efficient, and quality installation. Proper planning will also help avoid costly mistakes.

Checklist



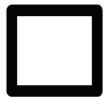
SAFETY

Safety should always be your primary concern. Verti-Block™ walls must be installed following proper procedures to ensure work site safety and the integrity of the wall. All local, state, and federal safety regulations must be followed.



ENGINEERING AND PERMITS

Obtain necessary engineering approvals and permits for your project. Your local building department is an excellent resource to help determine the requirements for your project. Note: This installation manual is intended to supplement a detailed, site-specific wall design prepared for your project by a professional engineer. The construction documents for your project will supersede any recommendations presented in this manual.



REVIEW THE PROJECT PLANS

Take the time to review and understand the project plans and specifications. Make sure that the plans take into account current site and soil conditions. Pay close attention to silty or clay soils, ground water or surface water on the site. A pre-construction meeting with the wall designer, construction inspector, wall contractor, and owner or representative is recommended.



CONSTRUCTION PLANNING

Develop a plan to coordinate construction activities on your site. Make sure your plan specifically addresses how to control surface water during construction.



UTILITY LOCATION

Make sure to have underground utilities located and marked on the ground before starting any construction. In the United States, call 8-1-1 or go online to www.call811.com to schedule utility marking for your project site.




MATERIAL STAGING

Store blocks in a location close to the proposed wall. Blocks should be kept clean and mud free. Blocks should be stored in a location which will minimize the amount of handling on the project site. Store geogrid in a clean, dry location close to the proposed wall. Keep the geogrid covered or in the shade and avoid exposure to direct sunlight. Be careful where you stockpile excavation and backfill material. Do not stockpile soils over buried utility lines which could be damaged by the extra weight.

Equipment and Supplies

Make sure you have the proper equipment to handle Verti-Blocks and install the wall. Standard Verti-Blocks weigh 1755 lbs (790 Kg.) Mass Extenders can weigh up to 3642 lbs (1639 Kg.) each. Make sure excavators and other construction equipment are properly sized to handle the terrain and each Verti-Block. The following tools are recommended, but should not be limited to this list. Site conditions may require other equipment, tools and materials.

Earth Handling Equipment






Item	Quantity	Description
	Per Project Requirements	Skid Steer / Excavator / Mini Excavator

Block Handling Equipment



Item	Quantity	Description
	Per Project Requirements	Skid Steer / Excavator / Mini Excavator
	Per Project Requirements	Telehandler / Crane

* Always follow safe use and rigging procedures when handling the blocks for Verti-Block forms

Tools and Equipment

Item	Quantity	Description
	1	Laser Level
	1 of Each	10 Foot Level / 4 Foot Level
	Various	Shovels
	1	Compactor
	Various	Brooms
	2 Sets	Block Lifting Chains

Tools and Equipment

Item	Quantity	Description
 <p>BURKE</p> <p>Length 58"</p>	1	Burke Pry Bar
	Various	Marking Paint
	1	Concrete Saw (if required)
	Various	Personal Protective Equipment

MATERIALS

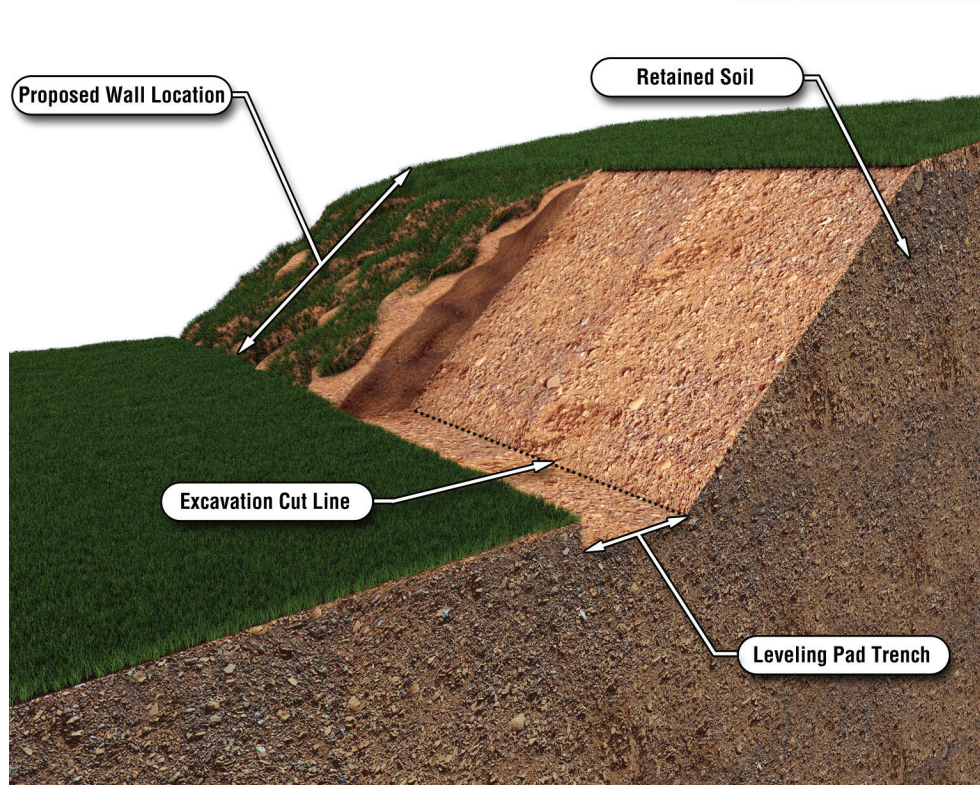
- Wall Base Material (Crushed Stone)
- Unit Fill Material (Crushed Stone)
- Perforated Drain Pipe
- Geotextile Filter Fabric (if required)
- Hand Rail (if required)

SITE PREPARATION

- Review the approved site plan to confirm lot lines, wall location, length and elevations
- Schedule preconstruction meeting
- Verify the on-site soil conditions
- Call the local utility companies to confirm the location of underground utilities
- Obtain all necessary building permits
- Confirm drainage to avoid erosion or buildup of water behind the wall

Excavation

Step 1



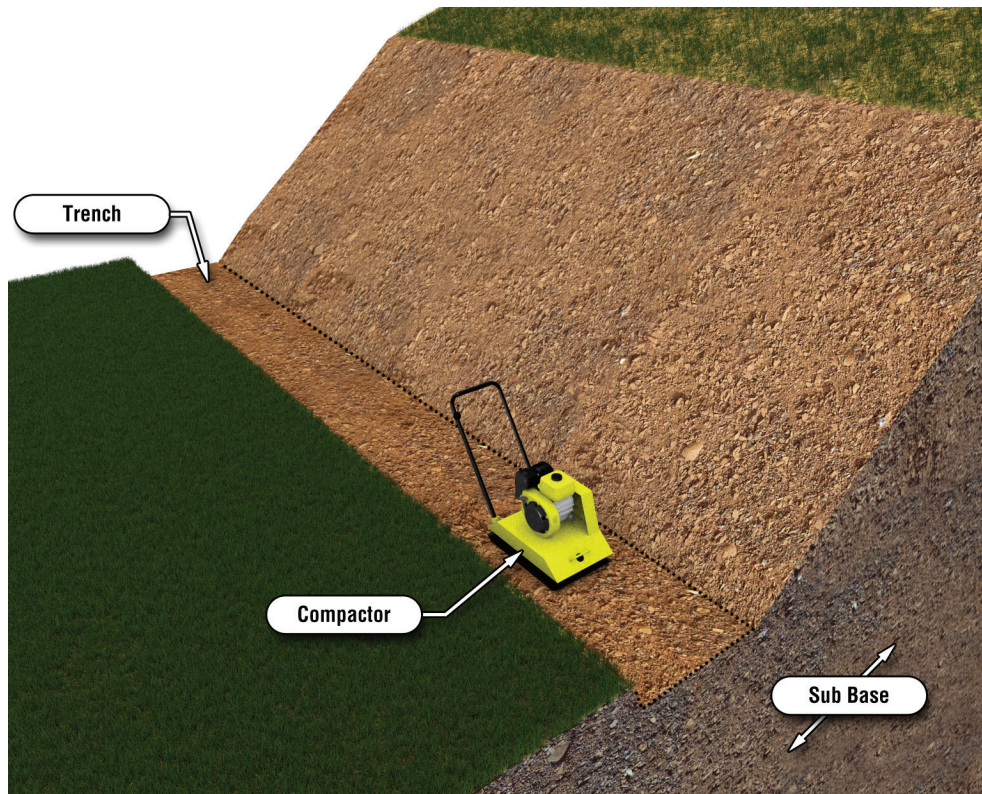
- Excavate and prepare leveling pad trench 6" (or 12" if necessary) below the first course
- Normal trench burial depth is 6" to 12"

Lay out the location and length of the wall. If possible, always start the wall base at the lowest elevation of the wall. Set wall elevations using a laser level and stakes prior to excavating. Excavate as required for installation of the retaining wall system. Use caution not to over-excavate beyond depth needed for the foundation. Slope or shore excavation as necessary for safety and for conformance with applicable OSHA requirements.



Foundation Preparation

Step 2



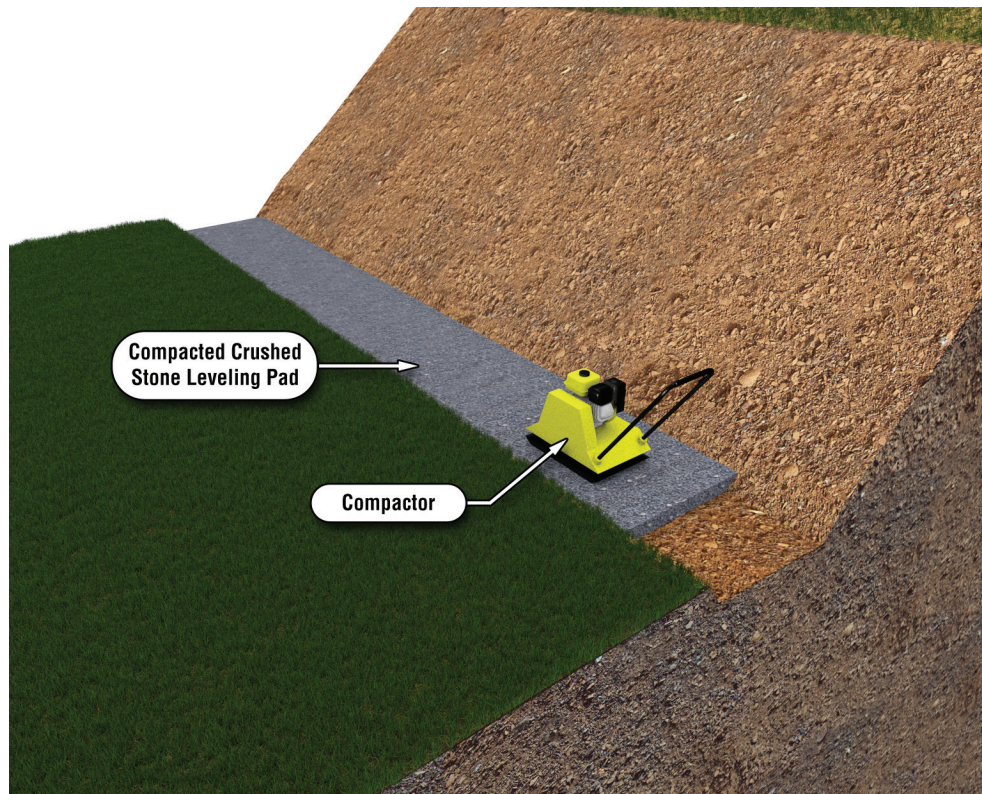
- Compact Sub Base to 95% Standard Proctor Density or greater
- Remove any poor soils in the Sub Base and replace with proper fill materials before compacting

Foundation soils shall be excavated as required by the plan specifications. Foundation soil should be observed by a Geotechnical Engineer to confirm that the bearing soils are similar to the design conditions or assumptions. Foundation soil shall be proof rolled and compacted a minimum of 95 percent of the maximum dry density (ASTM D 698, Standard Proctor) and inspected by the Owner's Engineer prior to placement of leveling pad materials. The contractor shall replace any unsuitable soils discovered during excavation at the direction of the engineer.



Leveling Pad Construction

Step 3



- Compact crushed stone leveling pad to 95% Standard Proctor Density or greater
- Ensure pad is level and smooth to allow proper placement of blocks

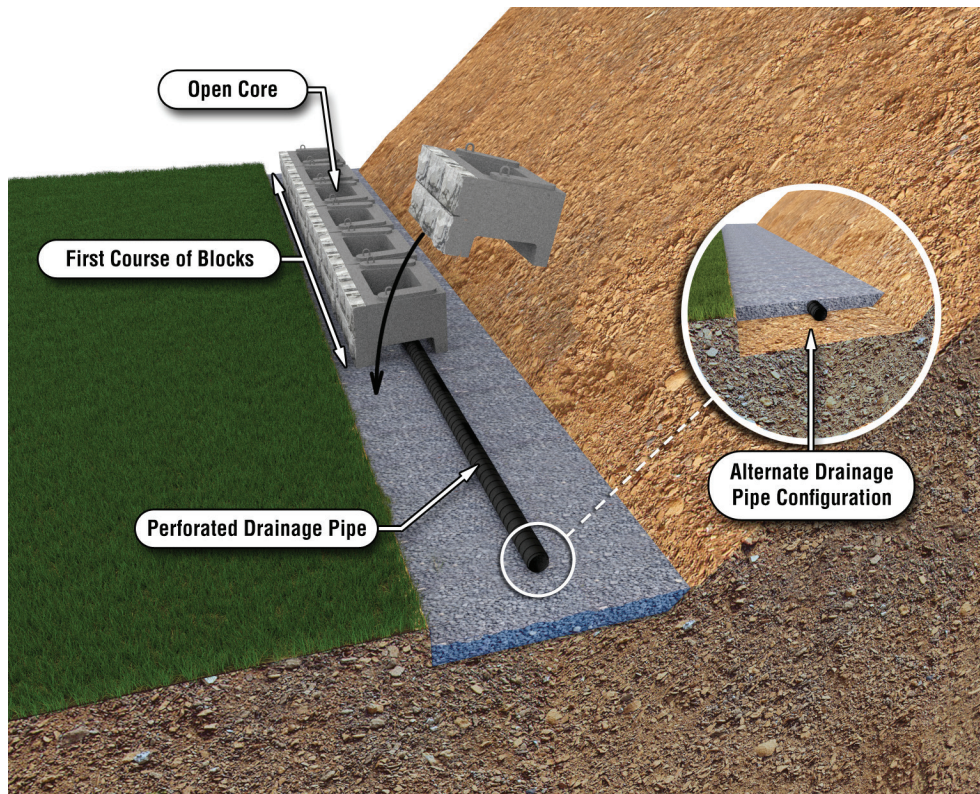
Construct the wall base to the lines and grades shown on the plans. The base is most often constructed using crushed stone. However, you may construct the base from concrete if desired. The choice of which type of leveling pad to use is made by the wall designer and depends on several factors including the bearing capacity of the native soil, location of the drain outlet and conditions at the base of the wall.

Construct base with the material and to the dimensions shown on the plans. Over excavated areas shall be filled with additional concrete or crushed stone material. Wall base shall consist of concrete with a minimum 28-day compressive strength of 3,000 psi, or a dense graded crushed stone. A minimum of 75% of coarse material shall have 2 or more fractured faces.

Compact the leveling pad to provide a hard and level surface to support the Verti-Block™ unit. Leveling pad material shall be compacted to a minimum of 95 percent of the maximum dry density (ASTM D 698, Standard Proctor). Prepare and smooth the crushed stone to ensure complete contact of the first course with the wall base. The surface of leveling pad may be dressed with finer aggregate to aid leveling, provided that the thickness of dressing layer should not exceed 3 times the maximum particle size used. It is important to ensure that the wall base has proper drainage. Consult with the engineer if added drainage is needed.

Wall Unit Installation

Step 4



First Course Procedure

- Lay perforated drain pipe in center of leveling pad
- Place first course of block directly on leveling pad over the drain pipe

Lay the perforated drain pipe in the center of the leveling pad so the blocks can be placed on top of the pipe.

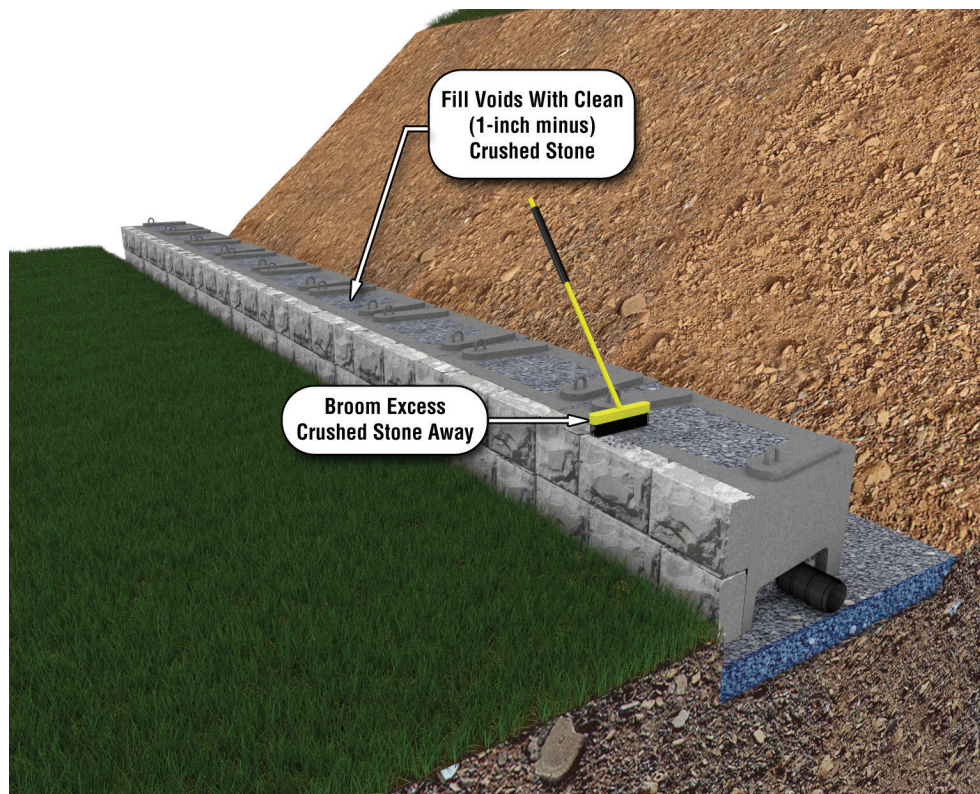
Place the first course of Verti-Block™ units directly on the wall base. If possible, begin placing blocks at the lowest section of the wall. The unit shall be leveled side-to-side, front-to-rear and with adjacent unit. Ensure that each Verti-Block™ units are in full contact with the compacted leveling pad. The first course is the most important to ensure accurate and acceptable results.

In some cases a mass extender may be used to achieve taller gravity walls. These units shall be installed in accordance with the plans.



Wall Unit Installation

Step 5



- Fill all voids with clean crushed stone
- Sweep off excess crushed stone in preparation for next course

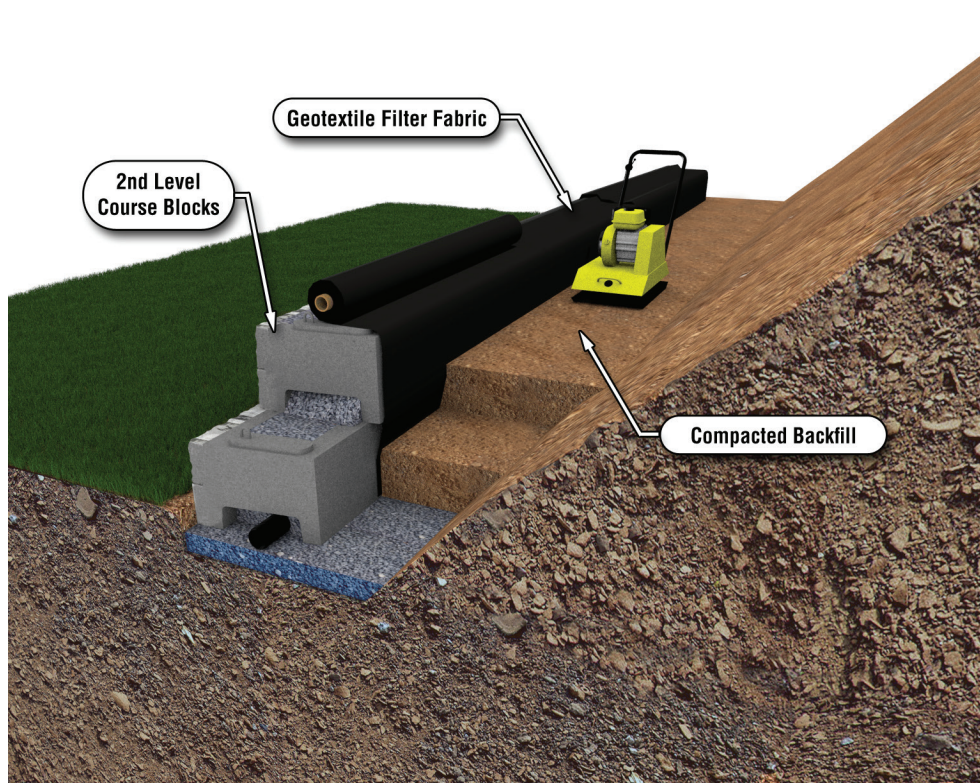
Fill all voids between and within the unit with granular unit fill. Unit fill shall consist of a screened crushed stone. A minimum of 75% of coarse material shall have 2 or more fractured faces.

When required, provide a geotextile filter fabric for separation from backfill at the tails of the unit. The geotextile shall be a needle punched non-woven fabric with a minimum grab tensile strength of 120 pounds according to ASTM D 4632. If used, the geotextile may cover the entire back face of the unit or may be cut in strips to cover the gaps between tail units with a minimum of 6 inches of overlap over the concrete tail on both sides.

Drain Pipe Alternate Configuration: Depending on the project, it may be an option to install the perforated drain pipe within the leveling pad. This is acceptable as long as the drain pipe is not damaged or crushed during the compaction process.

Wall Unit Installation

Step 6



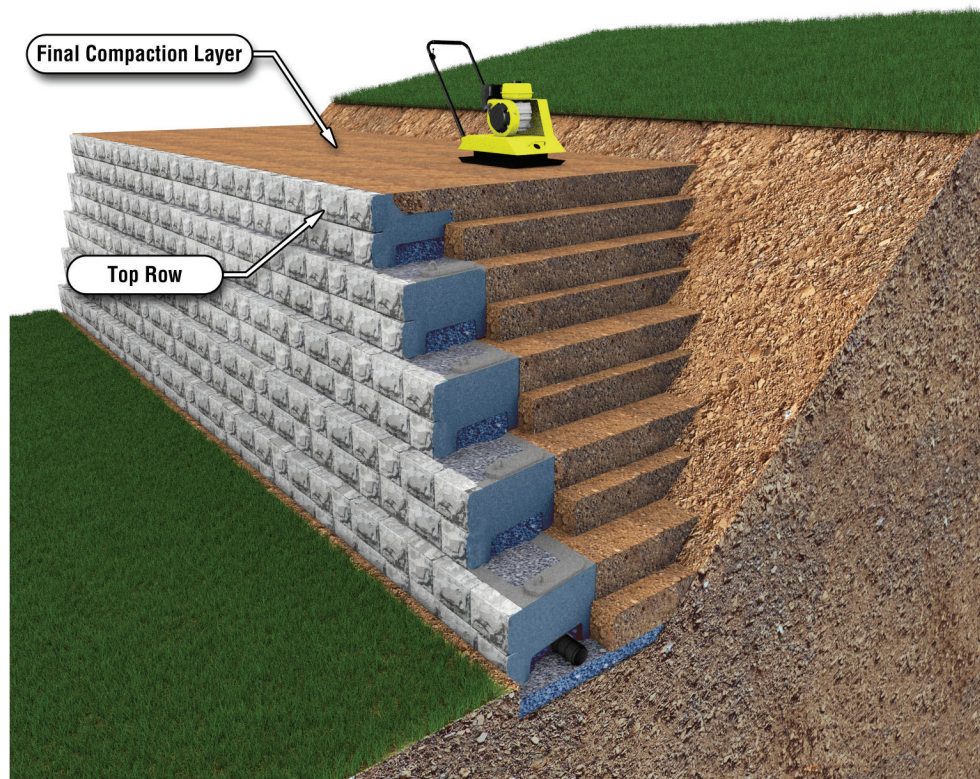
- As required, place Geotextile filter fabric between blocks and compacted backfill
- Compact backfill behind blocks in lifts no more than 12" high
- Lay 2nd course of blocks on top of the 1st course
- Continue to fill voids with crushed stone for proper drainage

Remove all excess aggregate and other materials from the top of the unit before laying up the next course. Place the next course of blocks in running bond with the previous course. Place the female notch over the male spacing riser from the unit below, and pull the unit forward to contact the male riser. This alignment will produce a batter of 2 3/16 inches for every 24 inches of vertical wall height. Check each Verti-Block™ for level and alignment. The layout of radius and corners shall be installed in accordance with the plans or shop drawings.

Continue placing successive courses to the elevations shown on the plans. Construct wall in level stages, placing the unit at each course for the entire length of the wall, if possible. Unit fill and backfill should be placed to the level of the top of the facing unit before placing the next course. Provide temporary swales to divert runoff away from wall excavation and away from face during the construction phase. Complete the last course by installing the Verti-Block™ top unit. Place unit fill and backfill level with the back face of the unit.

Backfill Placement and Compaction

Step 7



- Continue compacting backfill material in lifts every 12" as subsequent block courses are placed
- Continue to lay block courses until the top row is completed

Place native soil backfill behind the unit in maximum loose lifts of 12 inches and compact. Backfill and compact behind the first course before installing other courses.

Compact all backfill to a minimum of 95 percent of the maximum dry density (ASTM D 698, Standard Proctor). For cohesive soils, the moisture content at the time of compaction should be adjusted to within -3 and +4 percent of optimum. Place backfill in successive lifts until level with the top of the facing unit. Additional unit fill is not required behind the unit, but may be placed for the convenience of the contractor.

All other backfill behind and in front of the wall shall consist of suitable on-site soil or imported borrow approved by the Geotechnical Engineer. Backfill shall generally consist of sands, silts, or lean clays with a liquid limit less than 45 and a plasticity index less than 20. Fat clay soils, cobbles, and large rock should generally be avoided unless approved by the Geotechnical Engineer based on local practices. Frozen soils, excessively wet or dry soils, debris, and deleterious materials should not be used.

Final grade above and below the retaining wall shall provide for positive drainage and prevent ponding. Protect completed wall from other construction. Do not operate large equipment or store materials above the wall that exceed the design surcharge loads.

Final Grade and Landscape

Step 8



- Ensure that final grading is done on top and bottom of the wall
- Make sure to protect newly placed planting soil from erosion during heavy rains or surface runoff

Once the final grade is completed both above and below the wall, landscaping should be installed to complete the aesthetic look to compliment the wall design and appearance. It is important to take precautions to protect planting soils from erosion that may occur during heavy rains or surface run off.

