Heron, Hayman & Sydneystone Retaining Walls

Technical Design Guide | March 2022

What’s inside

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Range
Overview

1

Overview & Specifications

Product	Range	Description	Max Wall Height	Size (mm)	Weight	Coverage	Applications
	**Heron**	Standard Unit	800mm* 600mm** 500mm^	390L × 245W × 198H	24kg	13 Blocks per m²	Straight Walls, Curved Walls, Corners, Steps
	**Heron**	Capping Unit	-	390L × 245W × 75H	16kg	2.57 Caps per Lineal Metre	Capping
	**Heron**	Corner Block	-	160L × 360W × 198H	20kg	N/A	Corners
	**Heron**	End Block	-	160L × 245W × 198H	18kg	N/A	Wall Ends
	**Hayman**	Standard Unit	800mm* 600mm** 500mm^	390L × 245W × 198H	24kg	18 Blocks per m²	Straight Walls, Curved Walls, Corners, Steps
	**Hayman**	Capping Unit	-	390L × 245W × 90H	16kg	2.57 Caps per Lineal Metre	Capping
	**Hayman**	Corner Block	-	160L × 360W × 198H	17.2kg	N/A	Corners
	**Sydneystone**	Wall Block	600mm**	390L × 245W × 200H	21kg	13 per m²	Curved Walls, Straight Walls, Corners, Steps
	**Sydneystone**	Corner Block	-	340L × 140W × 200H	20kg	N/A	Corners
	**Sydneystone**	Capping Block	-	390L × 245W × 90H	16kg	2.56 per lineal metre	Capping

* Applies in Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania
** Applies in New South Wales
^ Applies in Western Australia

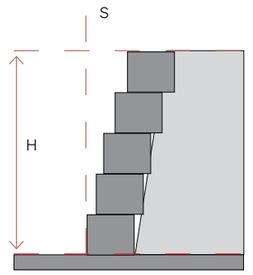
Austral Masonry retaining wall blocks are an ideal choice for retaining walls in gardens, other residential applications and commercial projects. The interlocking and dry stacked nature of these, makes them easy to install for the “Do It Yourself” landscaper. No matter what the project, the result is always an attractive and low maintenance retaining wall. The flexibility of the system provides tremendous scope, from edging to terraces, straight walls to curves.

Note: Information contained in this installation guide is offered as general advice only. Please consult with regulating council for local design requirements prior to the commencement of any retaining wall and consult with a professional engineer prior to commencing any retaining wall project. Councils may request walls over 0.5m in height and / or where a surcharge exists (e.g. driveway, house, fence or other structure) be designed and certified by a suitably qualified engineer.

General Notes

1. Wall Set Back

On straight walls, each course of blocks is set back 10mm (slightly more on curves). The table to the left shows the estimated setback based on wall height and is offered as a guide only.



Wall Set Back 1:20 Easy Reference Chart

Wall Height (H)	Horizontal Setback Distance (S)
1m	40mm
2m	90mm
3m	140mm

2. Estimating Materials

Calculating Block Quantities - Example Wall
10m long by 3 courses high

Blocks

(10 metres x 2.57 blocks per metre) x 3 courses = 77.1 blocks (78 blocks total) + 5% Extra (Breakages, curved walls, cuts) = 82 Blocks

Capping

10 metres x 2.57 capping blocks per metre = 25.7 capping blocks (26 blocks total) + 5% Extra (breakages, curved walls, cuts) = 28 capping blocks

No. of blocks	Length of wall (metres)					
	2m	4m	6m	8m	10m	12m
1	6	11	16	21	26	32
2	11	22	32	42	52	63
3	16	32	47	62	78	94
4	21	42	63	83	104	125
5	26	52	78	104	130	156
6	31	62	93	124	156	186

3. Your Checklist

- ☐ String line
- ☐ Tape measure
- ☐ Walling units
- ☐ Compaction tool
- ☐ Shovel
- ☐ Spirit level
- ☐ Wheelbarrow
- ☐ Agriculture drain pipe
- ☐ Pegs or stakes
- ☐ Broom
- ☐ Gloves & eye protection
- ☐ Saw (to cut blocks if required)
- ☐ 10–20mm crushed stone
- ☐ Crushed rock (for base)

Design
Details

2

Soil reinforced walls with geogrid

Austral Masonry's Heron, Hayman and Sydneystone segmental block retaining wall systems utilize their shape and weight in order to resist the lateral earth pressures. In combination with geogrid soil reinforcement, these walls can be built to substantial heights, without costly structural reinforced concrete footings.

Geogrid Requirements

The length, location and grade strength of geogrid is dependent on the wall height, loading on top of the structure, and soil properties. The following table is in accordance with AS4678: 2002 - Earth Retaining Structures.

Note: Please consult with appropriate council for design and construction regulations. Councils in general require walls to be designed and certified by a suitably qualified engineer where the wall is over 500mm in height or will have a surcharge load such as a road, building or hydrostatic pressure is present. The suitability of the information contained in the table must be referred to a qualified consulting engineer. These tables are provided as a guide only.

Design Considerations

- Maximum wall heights table is based on a 5kPa surcharge load acting on top of the wall as per AS4678: 2002. This table is supplied as a guide only and must be referred to a qualified professional engineer. If imposed surcharge loads above 5kPa are applied, these designs are not appropriate.

- The Table above assumes the foundation material has a minimum bearing capacity of 200kPa.

- Designs assume no hydrostatic loading.

- The minimum embedment of wall below ground level is assumed to be the greater of H/20 or 100mm.

- Designs are based on Geogrid strength of 55kN/m2

- Designs assume flat slopes on top of the wall

- Global Stability may govern design criterias for steep slopes. A qualified geotechnical engineer should be consulted for such cases.

Geogrid Table - Guide only

			Geogrid Placement above Levelling Pad (m)						Geogrid Length L (m)		
Surcharge	Wall Height (m)	Geogrid Layers	Number of Geogrid layers						Friction Angle Ø (º)		
			1	2	3	4	5	6	25	30	35
5kPa Driveway Surcharge	1.0	2	0.2	0.6					1.7	1.7	1.7
	1.2	2	0.4	0.8					1.7	1.7	1.7
	1.4	3	0.4	0.8	1.2				2.0	1.7	1.7
	1.6	3	0.4	0.8	1.2				2.2	1.7	1.7
	1.8	3	0.4	0.8	1.4				2.2	1.7	1.7
	2.0	4	0.4	0.8	1.4	1.8			2.3	2.0	2.0
	2.2	4	0.4	0.8	1.4	1.8			2.5	2.0	2.0
	2.4	4	0.4	0.8	1.4	2.0			2.6	2.1	2.0
	2.6	5	0.4	0.8	1.6	2.0	2.4		2.8	2.2	2.2
	2.8	5	0.4	0.8	1.4	2.0	2.6		2.9	2.5	2.4
	3.0	6	0.2	0.6	1.2	1.8	2.4	2.8	3.1	2.8	2.6

Soil Types

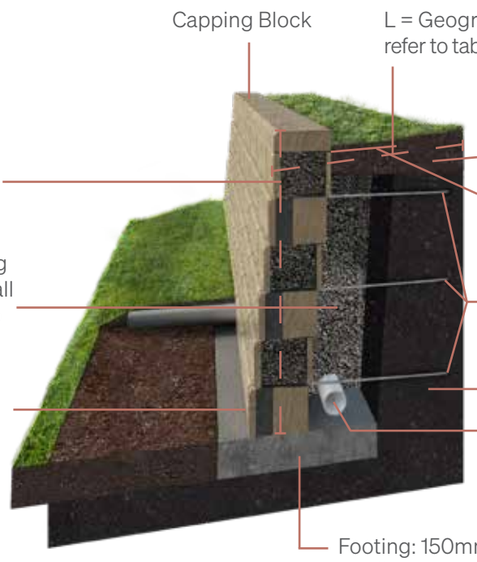
• Poor (Ø = 25˚): Soils with friction angle > 25˚, may include sandy clays, gravelly clays and sand. Expansive clays and organic soil MUST not be used within the soil reinforced zone.

• Average (Ø = 30˚): Soils with friction angle > 30˚, may include gravelly sands and well graded sands.

• Good (Ø = 35˚): Soils with friction angle >35˚, may include gravels, sandy gravels, weathered sandstone and crushed sandstone.

Soil reinforced walls with geogrid

Typical Cross Section



Installation Steps

1. Excavation and Foundations

Excavate in accordance with the specific design requirements. Bench out site to allow for full length of geogrid as per design. Excavate levelling pad trench 600mm wide by a minimum 250mm deep. This allows for a 150mm deep levelling pad + 100mm minimum block embedment.

2. Levelling Pad

The footing shall be 600mm wide x 150mm deep, of compacted roadbase or un-reinforced concrete.

3. First Course

The first course is to be laid on the levelling pad and aligned using a string line along the back of the units. Ensure units are levelled side to side and front to back. It is critical that the first course is accurate and level in order to ensure acceptable horizontal and vertical tolerances. Sand or mortar can be used as a levelling aid on the first course.

4. Drainage Materials

Place a 100mm agricultural drainage pipe for subsoil drainage behind the first course of blocks, with a minimum fall to the drainage outlet of 1:100. Fill all the voids within the blocks and extend 300mm behind the blocks with 12- 20mm clean granular material, to the top of the first course.

5. Placement of Geogrid

The geogrid must be placed between the blocks as specified on the drawings. Geogrids shall be cut to the required length. Place the next course of blocks on top of the geogrid. Gently pull taut to remove any slack in the geogrid. Secure the back end of the geogrid before repeating Step 3 and proceeding with Step 6.

6. Backfill and Compaction

Place approved backfill material over the geogrids. Backfill shall be spread in a maximum of 200mm lifts, starting at the front of the wall (behind the drainage zone) to back of the soil reinforced zone. Compaction equipment must not make contact with the geogrids. Hand held plate compactors to be used within 1.5m from the front of the wall. Heavier compaction equipment may be used 1.5m away from the front of the wall face. Compaction to be 98% of Standard Maximum Dry Density. Surface drainage during and after construction of the wall shall be provided to minimise water infiltration in the compacted soil reinforced zone.

7. Subsequent Courses

Repeat steps 4 through to 6. Ensure compaction lifts are kept at 200mm. Blocks need to be levelled after compacting each lift.

8. Wall Capping

Install capping units and fix with concrete adhesive.

No fines concrete

‘No Fines’ concrete is ideal for cut sites and boundaries, where the use of soil reinforcement and excavation of the backfill is impractical. The use of ‘No Fines’ adds mass to the retaining wall system allowing for the overall height to be increased from a standard gravity wall without the need for geogrid reinforcement.

No Fines Concrete Specification

• Footing: 25 MPa Concrete

• Fill block cores and behind the wall with 15MPa concrete.

• Backfill behind wall with 15 MPa concrete with a 6:1 ratio (Gravel: Cement).

• Density range: 1800kg/m3 to 2100kg/m3.

• Void ratio of the mix is expected to be between 20% to 30% and should be free draining.

Note: Please consult with appropriate council for design and construction regulations. Councils in general require walls to be designed and certified by a suitably qualified engineer where the wall is over 500mm in height or will have a load such as a road, building or hydrostatic pressure.

Design Considerations

• The ‘No Fines’ concrete maximum wall heights table is based on a 5 kPa surcharge load acting on top of the wall as per AS4678: 2002. This table is supplied as a guide only.

• For higher walls the use of geogrid soil reinforcement is recommended. Contact Austral Masonry for further details.

• This product has zero slump exerting similar pressures on the soil and formwork, as loosely poured aggregate.

• The vertical height of any pour of ‘No Fines’ concrete is to be limited to 3 blocks high (approx. 600mm). The concrete must be allowed to harden before pouring the next lift.

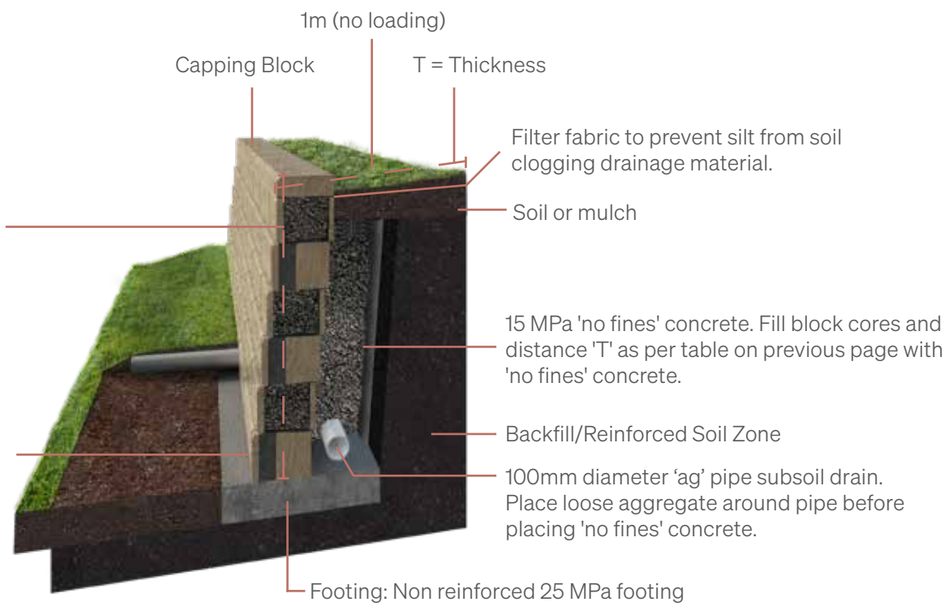
• Global stability should be checked by a suitably qualified engineer. - The design assumes no ground water to be present. For site conditions where ground water exists, the wall must be re-designed by a suitably qualified engineer.

No Fines Concrete Tables - Wall Height and Retained Soil Quality

Wall Height H (mm)	Retained Soil CLAY = 26° (POOR) T (mm)	Retained Soil SAND=30° (AVERAGE) T (mm)	Retained Soil GRAVEL = 34° (GOOD) T (mm)
1000	500	500	500
1200	750	650	600
1600	950	850	800
2000	1100	1000	1000
2400	N/A	1200	1100
2800	N/A	1500	1400

No fines concrete

Typical Cross Section



Installation Steps

1. Excavation

Excavate a trench 600mm wide by a minimum of 250mm deep (150mm depth of concrete footing + 100mm minimum block embedment). Place 25MPa non-reinforced concrete to form the footing.

2. First Course

The back “wings” of 30% of the blocks need to be bolstered off to ensure the No-Fines concrete in the blocks engages with the No-Fines concrete behind the wall, and becomes a monolithic mass. Place blocks onto levelling pad and align with string line at the rear of units. Ensure blocks are level side to side and front to back tapping gently with rubber mallet to make the necessary adjustments. It is critical the first course be level. Brush any excess ‘No Fines’ concrete material from the top of the blocks (before it is allowed to harden). Place the next course of blocks and repeat steps 2 and 3 until the required wall height is reached.

3. No Fines Concrete Backfill

Fill block cores and backfill to the specified depth with ‘No Fines’ concrete. The vertical height of pour must not exceed 600mm. Alternatively the wall may be propped. Ensure the face of the wall is not stained with the concrete, as once set will be difficult to remove.

4. Capping Units

Secure capping units with a flexible adhesive such as Maxbond or Liquid Nails to finish the wall.fix with concrete adhesive (Maxbond/Liquid Nails)

Typical terraced wall applications

Typical Cross Section

Notes

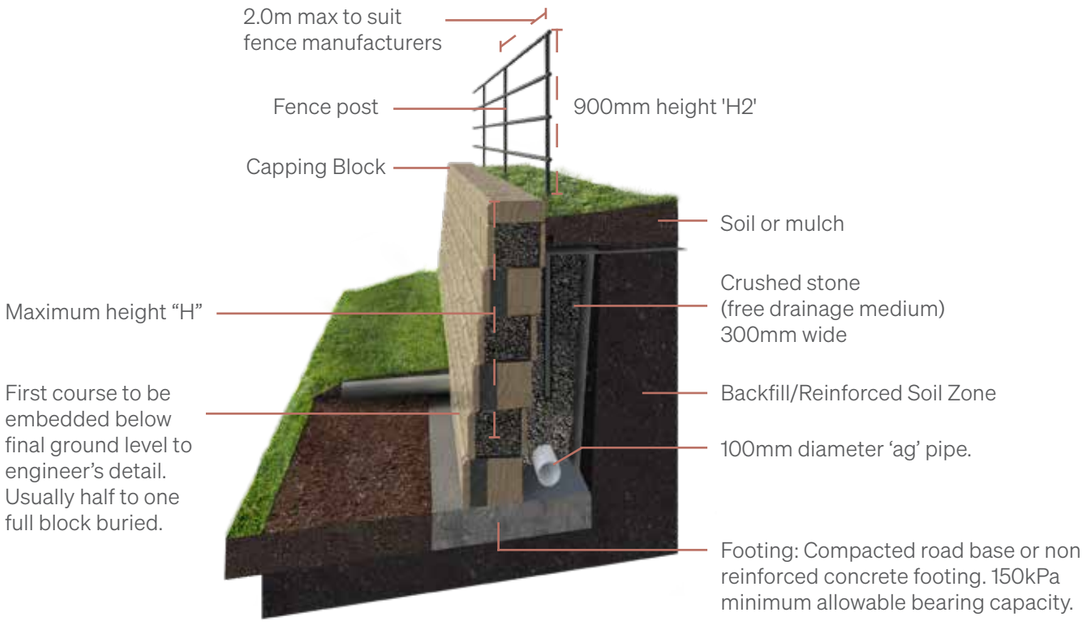
1. Walls may be terraced for a number of reasons. To increase the aesthetic appeal of the retaining wall, to level off a sloping site, and in some instances to reduce the single wall heights to levels were they can behave as gravity walls, thus reducing the need to use geogrid or ‘no fines’ concrete. In the latter instances, it is important to remember that the upper terrace wall can put pressure on the lower terrace when the walls are built close together.

2. As a general rule, for the terraces to act as individual retaining walls, the minimum distance between the wall terraces must be at least 1.5 times the height of the lower wall. Note, this rule does not address global stability issues where walls are built on steep sites or in poor soils. A Global stability analysis should be undertaken by a suitably qualified engineer where such conditions may exist.

3. Where insufficient room exists on site to space the terraces at 1.5 x H1, the bottom terrace must be designed to accommodate the loading from the top terrace. The design analysis may model the structure as a single wall (i.e. H1 + H2) to allow for the additional load from the upper terrace wall on the lower terrace.

Typical fence applications

Typical Cross Section

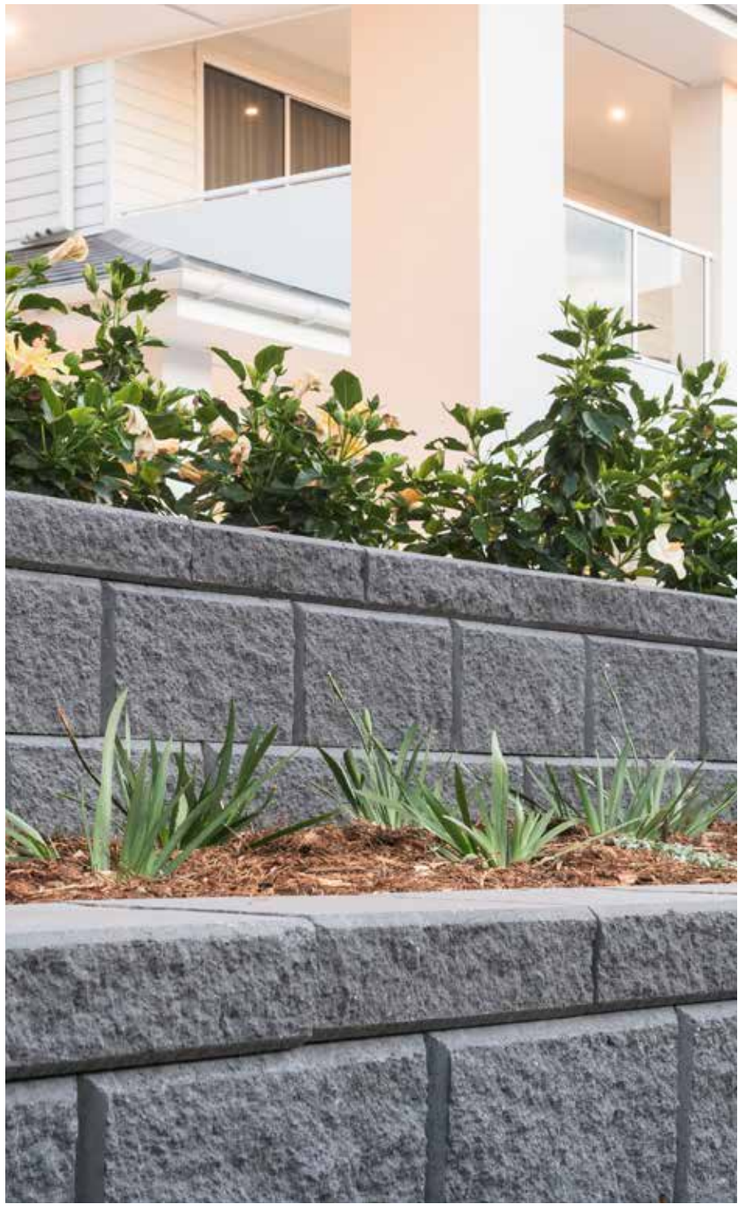


Notes

1. Fence posts should be embedded a minimum of 800mm from top of cap, and post encased with concrete. All other cores to be filled with gravel for drainage, or ‘no fines’ concrete as required. This embedment depth is for open fences only, where no wind loading is imposed on the wall and no impact loading is applied.

2. Walls must be suitably designed to accommodate additional wind loading imposed on all types of closed fences; for example, increasing the embedment for the posts.

3. When incorporating fences into the Heron Retaining wall system, the fence posts are to be placed behind the wall as shown.



Laying Information

3

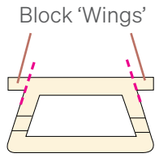
Block preparation

When building corners
Removing Block 'Nibs'

Using a hammer or mallet, knock off one concrete nib to fit next course corner unit.

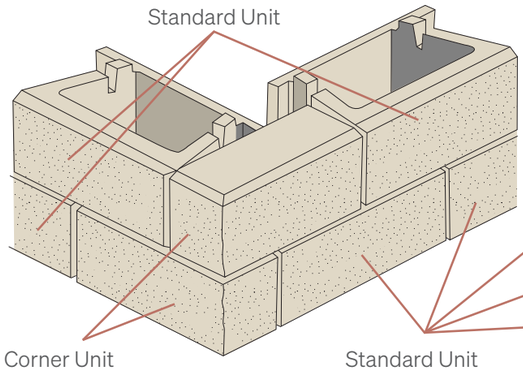
When building curves
Removing Block 'Wings'

The Heron, Hayman and Sydneystone blocks have been designed with 'wings' on either side that can be removed when constructing curved walls. Simply use a hammer or mallet to knock these off as required.

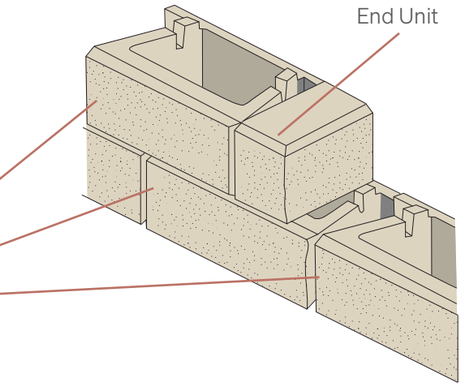


90 degree corners

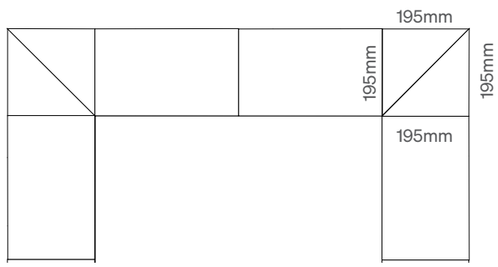
Laying Information
Standard 90° Corner Layout



Laying Information
Step Down on Top of Wall



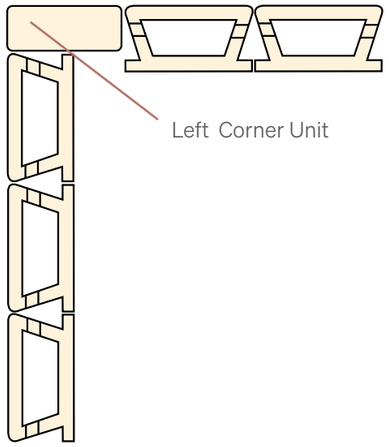
Laying Information
Capping Layout



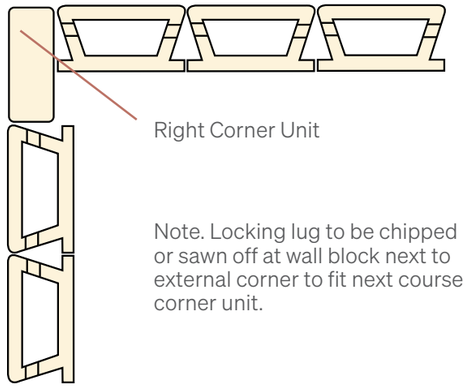
90 degree corners

Laying Information
External Corners

Odd Corners

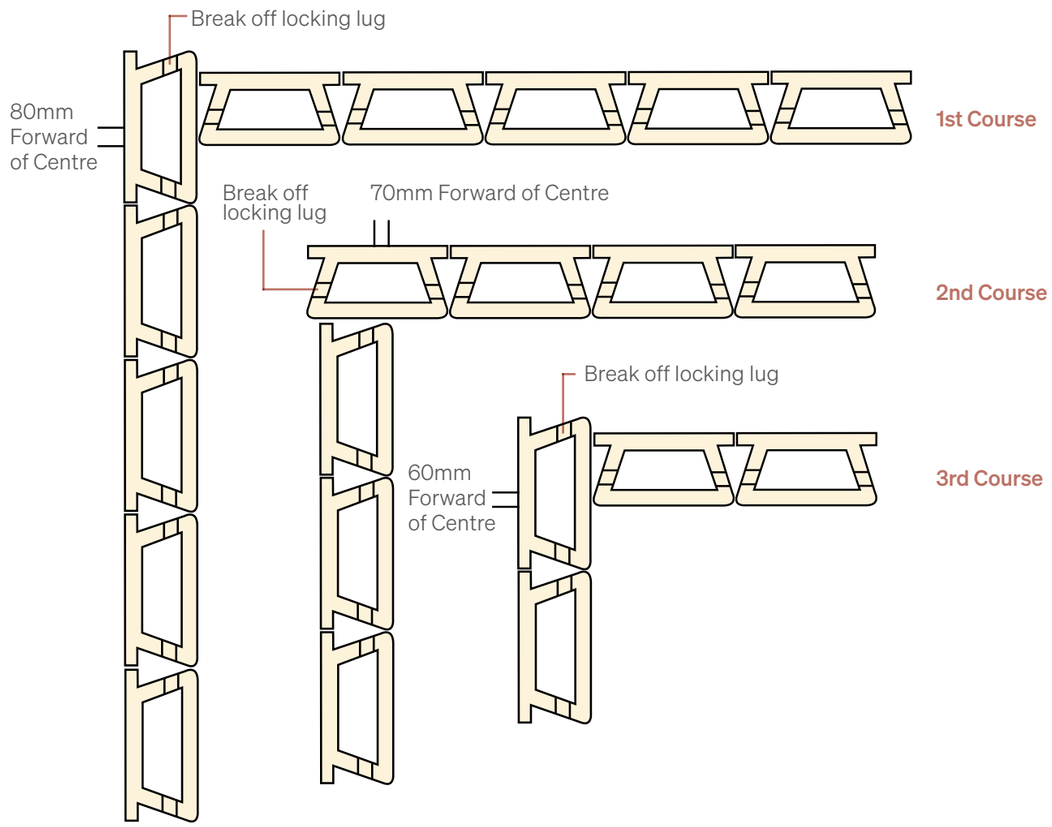


Even Corners



Note. Locking lug to be chipped or sawn off at wall block next to external corner to fit next course corner unit.

Laying Information
Internal Corners

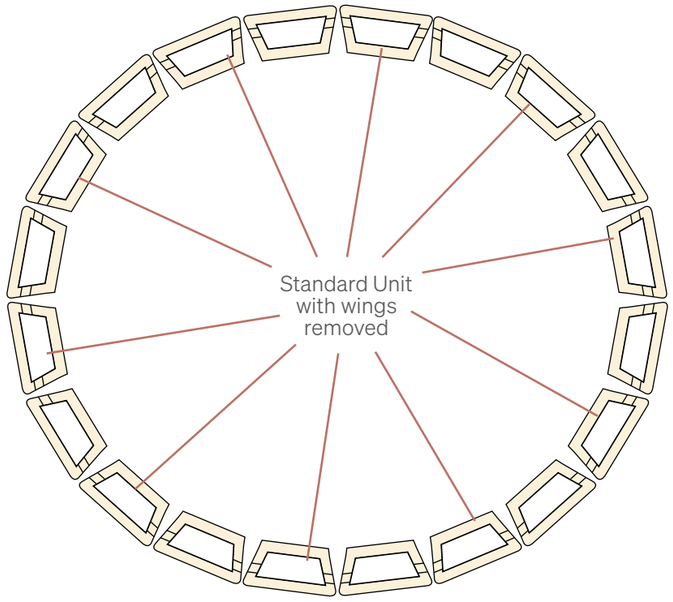


The above applies to installation of a retaining wall at 8 courses high.

Curved Walls

Laying Information
Circular Walls

These blocks can be used to create circular walls with ease. Make sure to plan out the laying of the blocks by plotting the first course before getting started. Pay careful attention to spacing of the blocks as you lay them to ensure the circles angle allows full blocks to be laid around the circumference of the wall.



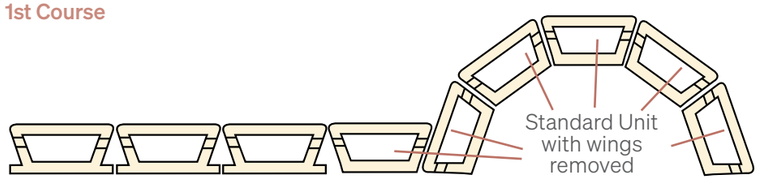
Notes when creating a circular wall

- The smallest circle achievable should be composed of 20 blocks giving a 1.250m radius. This is for the top course.
- If there are two courses below the top course the first course of a three course wall needs 8mm gaps between blocks which will act as weep holes.
- The middle course needs a 4mm gap between each block.
- Where a 12mm set back can be achieved the radius decreases by 24mm and circumference by 76mm for the course above.
- Larger radius walls will have more units per course to share the gap required for the larger circumference.
- The 10mm set back between each course increases as curves get tighter. Tight curves will need nibs and cores trimmed for 12mm set back.
- The wall circumference will be larger at its base compared to the top.

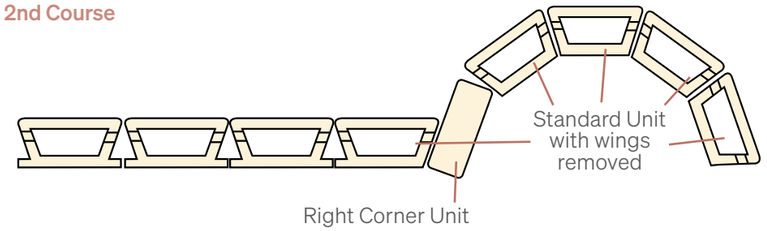
Laying Information
Straight Walls leading to Curved Sections

Heron, Hayman and Sydneystone blocks can be used to create circular walls with ease. Make sure to plan out the laying of the blocks by plotting the first course before getting started. Pay careful attention to spacing of the blocks as you lay them to ensure the circles angle allows full blocks to be laid around the circumference of the wall.

1st Course

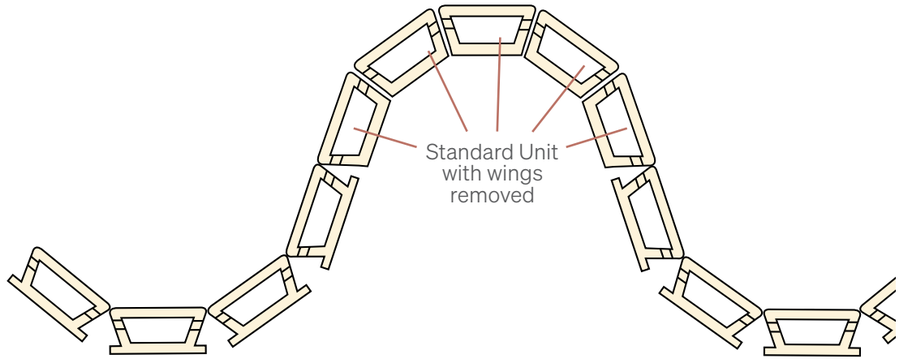


2nd Course



Laying Information
Curved Walls

Curved walls can be created by removing the ‘wings’ as referenced in thsi manual for the external curved sections of the wall.



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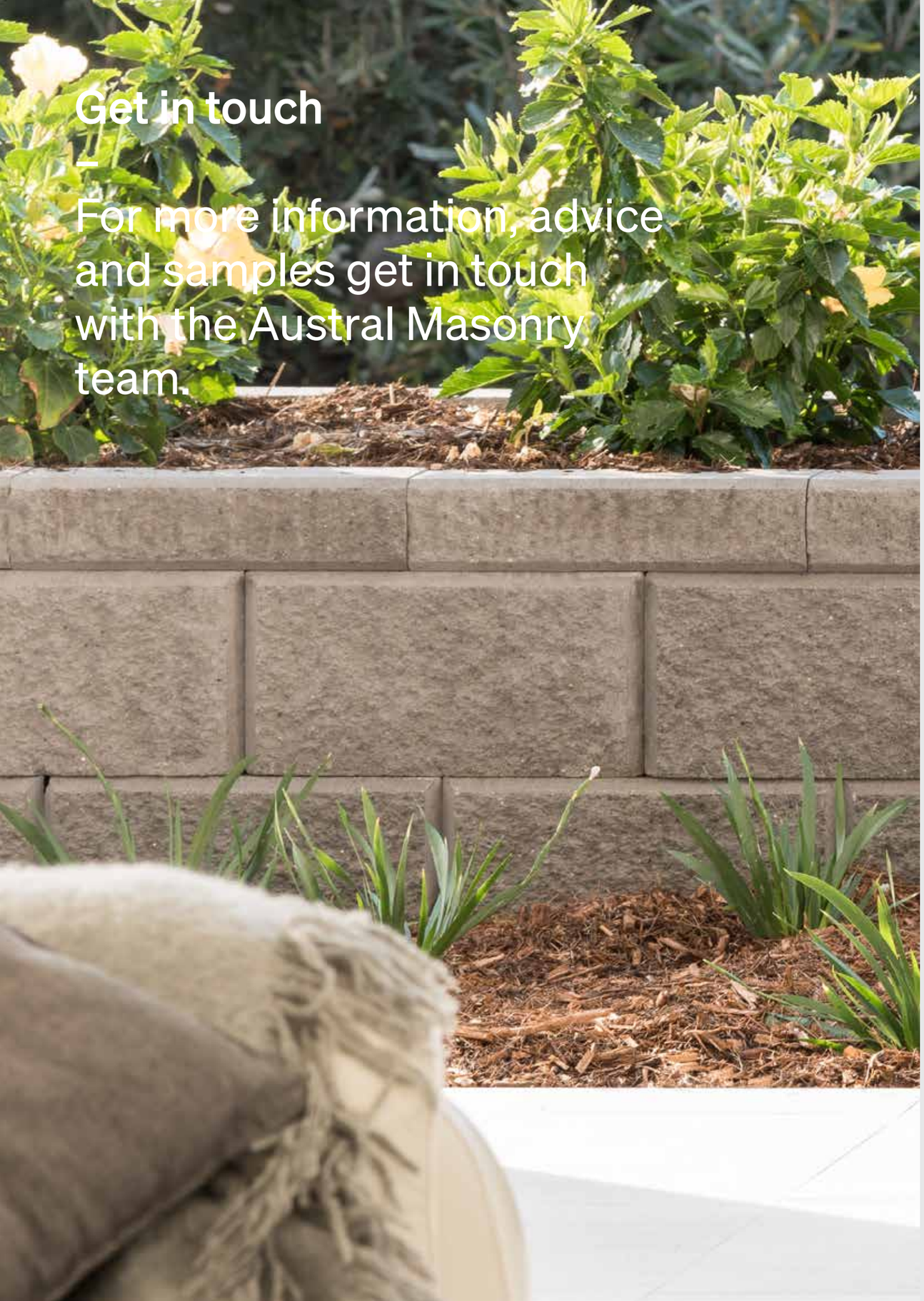

Get in touch

For more information, advice and samples get in touch with the Austral Masonry team.

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Garbutt QLD 4814

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Rochedale QLD 4123

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Toowoomba QLD 4350

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Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

Horsley Park
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2 Latitude Road
Horsley Park NSW 2175

Australian Capital Territory

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Fyshwick ACT 2609

Victoria

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Deer Park VIC 3023

Geelong
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Grovedale VIC 3216

Lynbrook
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Cnr Westernport Highway
& Northey Road
Lynbrook VIC 3975

Wollert
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Brick Makers Drive
Wollert VIC 3750

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201 Greenwith Rd
Golden Grove SA 5125

West Hindmarsh
Tel. 08 8417 8900
4 South Rd.
West Hindmarsh
SA 5007

Western Australia

Jandakot
Tel. 08 9395 3650
27 Jandakot Rd
Jandakot WA 6164

Mandurah
Tel. 08 9584 5500
53 Reserve Drive
Mandurah WA 6210

Osborne Park
Tel. 08 9260 2700
1/94 Hector St West,
Osborne Park WA 6017

Wangara
Tel. 08 9406 6700
18 Inspiration Drive
Wangara WA 6065

Production Centres

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184 Burnside Rd
Ormeau QLD 4208

Caloundra
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14 Daniel St
Caloundra QLD 4551

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