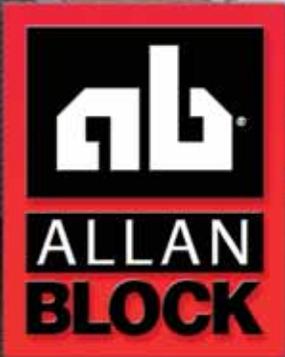


ALLAN BLOCK LANDSCAPES

Newsletter for the Landscape Professionals

Issue 18

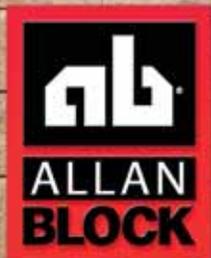


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Inside:

- ◆ A Front Yard Update
- ◆ Soften your Landscape with Terraced Walls
- ◆ Choose your Look from the Allan Block Collections

Spruce Up The Front Yard with AB Classic



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AB Collection

When Tim and Karen Travitz recently moved into their beautiful new home in Millersburg, PA, they were absolutely thrilled with everything about it-with the exception of the big, ugly hill in their front yard. Every time they drove into their driveway they knew they had to do something to improve the appearance.



Ben Stoltzfus, sales manager of Goldglo Landscapes, came to their rescue with Allan Block. Goldglo Landscapes, located in Millersburg, PA has an excellent reputation for building durable, high-quality, attractively designed retaining walls and other hardscapes.

Several Goldglo employees have attended Allan Block Contractor Certification classes, and the company has been using Allan Block products produced by Nitterhouse Masonry Products, LLC, located in Chambersburg, PA, for over five years.

Ben met with the homeowners to discuss the design and to show them the various Allan Block products, shapes, and colors available. Allan Block offers a variety of styles from a classic cut stone look to an Old World appearance. They chose the AB Classic block in an Earth Tan color to complement their home and attached garage.

It took Goldglo a little more than two weeks to install the handsome 3-tiered retaining walls. They started excavating the area from the bottom and worked their way to the top.

According to Ben Stoltzfus, "When you have a quality, affordable, beautiful product such as Allan Block, the

designs are limited only by your own creativity. There's a unique solution for any type of wall the customer is looking for.

Allan Block walls are possibly the easiest and fastest walls I've ever installed."

Aside from aesthetics, there were several other reasons why the Travitz's wanted to build the retaining walls. The hill in the front not only looked unattractive,

"When you have a quality, affordable, beautiful product such as Allan Block, the designs are limited only by your own creativity."

Ben Stoltzfus, Goldglo Landscapes

but it was difficult to mow and maintain, and created drainage problems. The beautiful, permanent, new Allan Block 3-tiered retaining walls instantly solved all of these problems and added lots of curb appeal and color with the addition of a variety of plants, flowers and accent lighting.

The Travitz's love the finished product, from design, to construction, to the end result. Every time they pull into the driveway the Allan Block walls welcome them home.

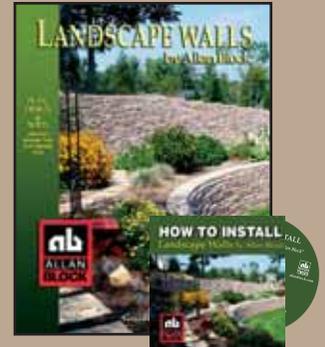


In-Wall Planters and Terraces



AB Europa Collection
AB Abbey Blend Pattern

The following is from the new *AB Landscape Walls Guide* and the *How To Install DVD*. See your local Allan Block dealer for these materials, or visit allanblock.com to watch the videos from the dvd or download this installation guide.

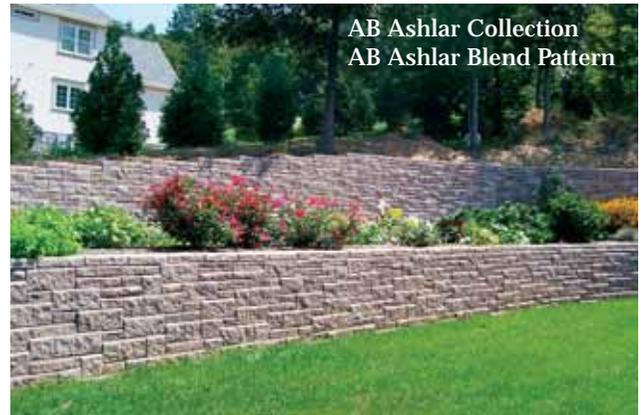


Design the Shape for Beauty and Function

Landscape designs are often more attractive when they include smaller terraced walls or in-wall planters rather than one large wall. Terraced walls can create more usable space, build raised gardens, help prevent erosion and add interest to your landscape.

Design the shape of terraced walls to compliment the surrounding architecture and landscape. You should always consider what will fill the space between terraced walls. Will it be used for plantings, filled with decorative rock or covered with sod? Allan Block's built-in top lip provides built-in edging that minimizes trimming and maintenance.

- **Straight walls** create a formal, structured look.
- **Flowing curves** have a more natural feel and create a softer look.



AB Ashlar Collection
AB Ashlar Blend Pattern

In harmony with nature.



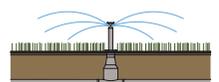
In-Wall Planter

AB Ashlar Collection
AB Ashlar Blend Pattern



AB Ashlar Collection
AB Ashlar Blend Pattern

Irrigation is often included when incorporating a planter. Ensure that your plan includes provisions for water management.

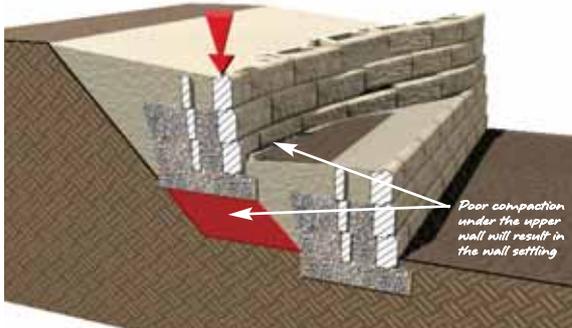


Terraced walls often require engineering and building permits. Be sure to check with your local building officials.

Always Build on Solid Ground

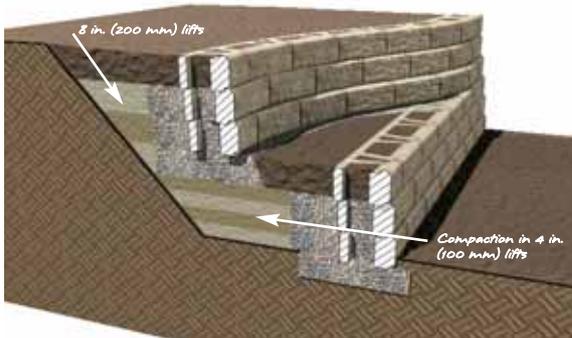
- The most important element in building terraces is soil compaction. Building on poor, uncompacted soil will result in settling of the upper walls. Although lower terraced walls are typically built on solid ground, upper walls are often built on soils that have been disturbed in the construction process. To ensure the stability of these soils, they should be removed down to solid ground and carefully reinstalled and compacted.

Improper Compaction - Upper Wall Settles



- To achieve proper compaction there are two different methods that work well. One way is to remove soft or poor soil and replace them with wall rock and compact in 8 in. (200 mm) lifts. Another way is to compact the soils in shorter lifts. When using infill or approved on-site soils, we recommend no more than a 4 in. (100 mm) lift. Good compaction is the key to minimizing settlement over time.

Proper Compaction - Upper Wall Performs

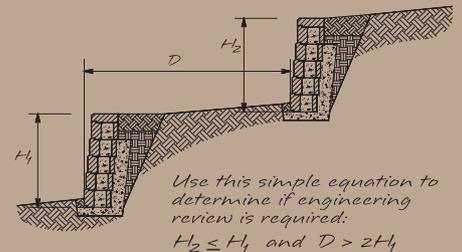


Terraces and Structure

Building a series of walls on a slope requires careful planning. Follow this simple set of rules:

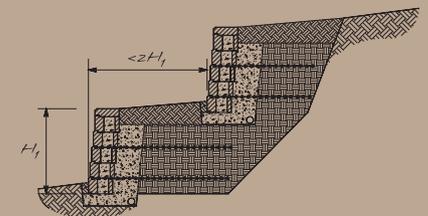
When the walls are spaced far enough apart they are engineered as two independent walls.

- The height of the upper wall should be less than or equal to the height of the lower wall.
- The distance between the walls must be at least twice the height of the lower wall.



As the upper wall moves closer to the lower wall, it adds pressure (surcharge) to the lower wall.

The lower wall will need to be engineered to account for the added weight and pressure, and extra reinforcement may be required.



AB Europa Collection
AB Abbey Blend Pattern

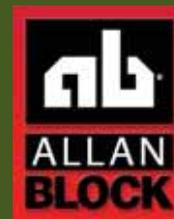


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Watch for us on HGTV

Watch for the Allan Block commercials on HGTV.

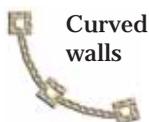
Allan Block is currently running 2 minute commercials on HGTV promoting 4 easy weekend projects. Watch for these spots to see just how easy it is to give your landscape a makeover.



allanblock.com

- **Build a Patio Enclosure**

You can use the AB Courtyard Collection to create a design that compliments your patio using straight or curved walls. AB Courtyard walls can also work well as additional seating areas.



Curved walls

Straight walls and corners



See How-To sheet #260 for detailed instructions.



See How-To sheet #290 for detailed instructions.

- **Build a BBQ Surround**

Instead of having the grill just sit on the patio, blend it into the surroundings with the AB Courtyard Collection. By building on an existing patio you can just stack the blocks, glue the caps and you are done. Simple enough to complete in a weekend.

- **Build an In-Ground Pond**

In just a weekend you can easily add a water feature to the landscape. Mark the location, prepare the foundation, stack the blocks and add water. Its sure to add style and an architectural element to any landscape.



See How-To sheet #310 for detailed instructions.



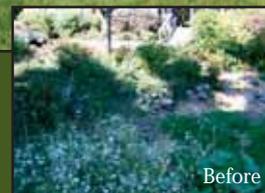
The AB Courtyard Collection is a versatile two-sided system that just stacks up with no special tools or skills.

Watch for these commercials during the best shows like Curb Appeal, Landscape Smart and Gardening by the Yard just to name a few.

For more information visit allanblock.com to find extended versions of these commercials that show the entire process from start to finish. Also available is detailed instructions and material lists so you can start updating your outdoor living spaces today.

- **Build a Retaining Wall**

With the AB Europa Collection and a weekend, you can build a beautiful wall with a built-in elevated garden. With a few simple tools and a little work an under developed area of any landscape can be quickly transformed into something not only beautiful but functional.



Visit allanblock.com to watch the video from start to finish on each of these projects to see just how easy it is to do.



Choose the Look you want from our Collections of Products.

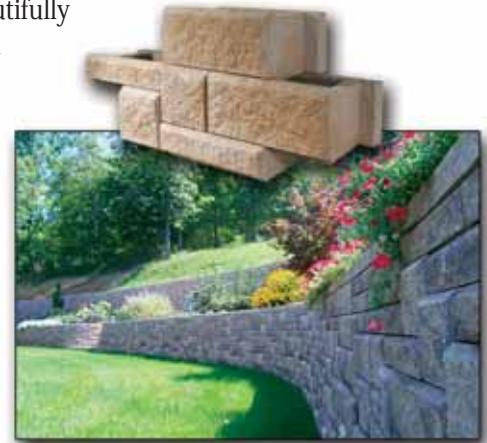
Visit allanblock.com for more information.

The Allan Block Collections give you a choice of styles to meet your site and design requirements. Choose the collection that best accents your home and lifestyle. The design possibilities are endless. Use the interlocking blocks individually or blend them together to create stunning landscapes. Simplicity, quality and lasting value is what you get with the Collections from Allan Block.



AB® Collection

If your looking for the perfect blend of performance and style in solid colors, choose the AB Collection. A favorite for years, it stacks beautifully and creates a smooth, fluid finish for every wall and promises to deliver maximum performance.



AB Ashlar Collection™

With the AB Ashlar Collection you can create a landscape masterpiece. Add a graceful definition to your home with the look and feel of classic cut stone. With a varied combination of shapes, textures and marbled colors, building impressive landscape walls is easy.

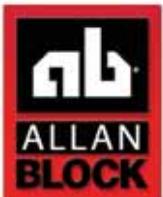


AB Europa® Collection

The AB Europa Collection offers an infinite variety of ways to successfully capture the rich, hand-laid stone effect. Use one block or a combination of the blocks to bring Old World charm and distinction to any landscape project.

AB Courtyard Collection™

From elaborate patio enclosures to simple weekend projects, the AB Courtyard Collection allows you to easily create beautiful and durable stone-like structures. This two-sided versatile system can meet any design need. Create elegant and stylish surrounds for any landscape.



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To receive this *Landscape Lifestyles* newsletter by e-mail, sign up at allanblock.com.

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