

STONE WALLS



Don't be fooled into thinking a rustic stone retainer wall is any easier to construct than a brick retaining wall. They both require the same consideration and footing requirements. You will need to follow the instructions on page 1: footings/foundations section of this project sheet. Once the footings are complete the construction of the wall depends on a good eye and a spirit level, because if the wall is uneven a spirit level alone will not give you an accurate outcome. However the effort you put in will be well worth the outcome.

STEP 1:

Build your footings the same way you would, as if you were building a brick retaining wall, with "key" footings.
Hint: Remember to put drainage pipes in.
See page 1. Footings/Foundations for full details.

STEP 2:

Once completed, you will need to purchase or obtain appropriate stones. Try a garden supplier, quarry or even a building site. Quite often large amounts of rock can be excavated during the construction process and gladly given away and some times even delivered.
Shop around until you find the stone that you like and make sure it's in plentiful supply. You may want to build another and another and another.

Hint: Avoid sharp edged stones, they can create a hazardous landscape, especially with small children. Smooth, flat faced, dense, irregular shaped stones have character and are perfect for the job.

Hint: Don't use stones you cannot comfortably lift above your waist height. You've got a lot of lifting ahead and you may injure yourself.

Hint: Moss & fungi look great on your stone walls, but ensure you use a stiff wire brush to remove it from the surface to be mortared in.

STEP 4:

Now all is ready! Mix up your Australian Builders Mortar according to user and safety directions on packaging.

Hint: For a more natural appearance add some Australian Builders Colouring Agent or Oxide to the mix... you'll be glad you did!

STEP 5:

Lay a quantity (perhaps 5cms at a time) of the mortar mix, onto your foundation and begin to set your stones. See diagram 1.

Hint: Save the coloured mortar for the outside finish. Use standard mix and rock rubble for the in fill.

STEP 6:

Using the natural shapes of the stones together with the shapes you've created, gradually build the wall up to your required height. Finish and level the whole wall off with a layer of concrete or use this as a base to fix some capping tiles or brick to it.
See diagram 3.
Brilliant work!



Tip: When building masonry walls, don't forget to get some galvanized steel brick ties, they'll ensure your job doesn't fall apart. See diagram 4. BUILDERITE!



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BUILDING RETAINER WALLS



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Remember: SAFETY FIRST!

Always follow safety guide and user information displayed on all Australian Builders Products. Enjoy the satisfaction of building-it-yourself! Saving heaps in the process. HAPPY BUILDING!



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