

AB Courtyard Collection® Installation Guide

*Create Outdoor Patio Walls, Ponds,
Kitchens, BBQ's and More with
AB Courtyard from Allan Block.*



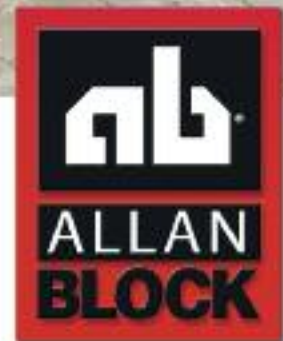
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AB Courtyard Collection®

The AB Courtyard Collection is a durable, versatile and a cost-effective way to bring value into your landscaping. This two-sided free standing wall system's unique design can be used in many different applications. Check out the projects shown here or visit our website for more ways to enhance your outdoor living space.



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For over twenty years Allan Block has been bringing innovative products to the landscape community. We can provide quality and performance to any project with our line of products. You can be confident you are making the right choice with any Allan Block product.

Visit our website at allanblock.com to find information about *Going Green with Allan Block* or to locate your closest AB distributor for pricing, availability, color selections and much more.

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For a complete library of installation videos, detailed instructions, estimating tools, photo gallery, and much more visit our website at allanblock.com.



Download the estimating tool for FREE at allanblock.com.



Patio Enclosures

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Firepits

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The AB Courtyard Collection patio wall system will enhance the beauty of your front or backyard landscaping. Use the walls and posts/pillars to add privacy or separation between landscape elements. The timeless beauty and the simplicity of use make this a product of choice.





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Use the **AB Courtyard Collection** to create beautiful patio enclosures. Design with flowing curves or create structured areas to give your new outdoor room a gracious and spacious feel. A built-in benefit is the additional seating that is now available when entertaining family and friends.



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AB Courtyard Collection provides unlimited possibilities for creating formal or casual settings. Available in a classic look of Courtyard as well as a weathered look of Old Country Courtyard, offering a timeless design, look and feel with the most versatility.



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The AB Courtyard Collection is made of materials that are environmentally friendly and are available in a wide range of colors to match your home and landscape.



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Use the **AB Courtyard Collection** to create your own outdoor patio, kitchen and grilling area. Design your own or use our weekend projects to build your own custom surroundings. Let your imagination run wild.



AB Courtyard Weekend Projects

The AB Courtyard Collection can enhance your landscape in just a weekend. Check out the ideas on pages 24-29 or be inspired to create something unique for your personal space. With the versatility of the system, any design or idea is possible.



Patio Enclosure

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Fire Pit

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Garden Bench

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Backyard Couch

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Outdoor Kitchen

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BBQ Grilling Station

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Below Ground Pond/Water Feature

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Above Ground Pond/Water Feature

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Entry Monument with Planter

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Entry Monument

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Compost Bin

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Light Post

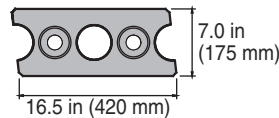
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The AB Courtyard Collection®

The AB Courtyard Collection is a two-sided free standing wall system that has 3 main components plus caps - the AB Dublin block, the AB York block and the Corner Block. With these blocks, you can build any wall panel or post/pillar project that will compliment any landscape. For an added element, blend the AB Dublin and AB York together to create patterned wall panels.

AB Dublin Block

The AB Dublin block is an angled block available in left and right angles. There are two raised rings on the top of the block, these interlock the blocks together so adhesive is not needed.



Height: 6.0 in (150 mm)
Weight: 39 lbs (18 kg)

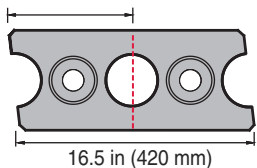


For starting or ending walls at posts/pillars, from an existing structure or when building corners the blocks must be modified to obtain one straight edge. There are three locations where the AB Dublin blocks may be modified. These units will need to be split or cut at a quarter (1/4), half (1/2) or three quarter (3/4) length.

Some units are produced with marks at these locations for ease of locating the cut line, but any of the AB Dublin blocks can be modified to obtain one straight edge. *See page 15 for information on how to modify blocks.*

Splitting or Cutting Locations for the AB Dublin

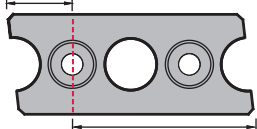
1/2 length - 8.25 in. (210 mm)



The measurements shown here are for reference only.

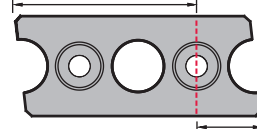
Modify the block down the center of the large circle.

1/4 length - 4.25 in. (110 mm)



3/4 length - 12.25 in. (310 mm)

3/4 length - 12.25 in. (310 mm)

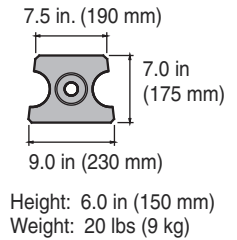


1/4 length - 4.25 in. (110 mm)

Modify the blocks down the center of the raised rings.

AB York Block

The AB York block is a tapered block, with a long and a short side. Creating curves with this shape is simple, and for straight walls, just rotate every other block.

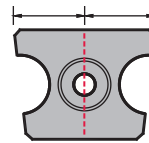


Height: 6.0 in (150 mm)
Weight: 20 lbs (9 kg)



Splitting or Cutting Locations for the AB York

1/2 length - 4.5 in. (115 mm)



Modify the block down the center of the raised ring.

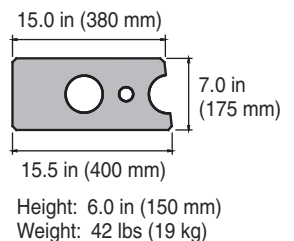
The measurements shown here are for reference only. This example is using the long side of the AB York.

AB York blocks are split in half down the center of the raised ring when modifying. Some units are produced with marks at this location for ease of locating the cut line but any of the AB York units can be modified at these locations to obtain one straight edge.

Note: The AB Dublin and AB York can be installed upside down when the opposite angle is needed during construction. This should typically only be done on the top course.

Corner Block

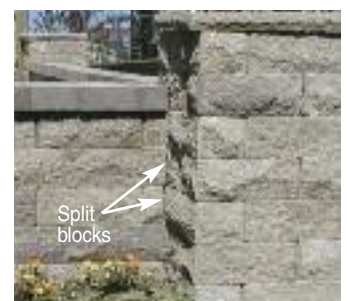
The Corner Block is an angled block. The block has no designated top or bottom; flipping it over creates the opposite angle. Use the Corner Block to create corners in a wall, step down or end a wall, create a post/pillar within a wall or as a free-standing landscape accent.



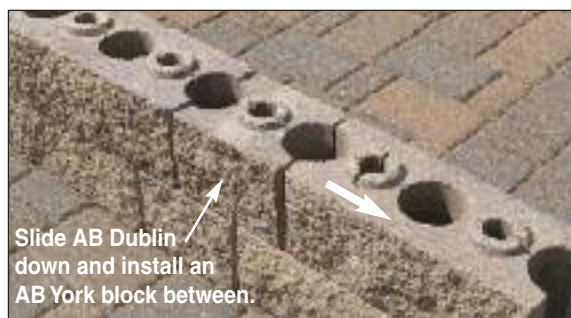
Height: 6.0 in (150 mm)
Weight: 42 lbs (19 kg)

The AB Dublin and AB York blocks are used to create this wall panel. Where they meet the post/pillar (Corner Blocks) they will need to be split, to form a straight edge and create a finished look.

See page 15 for information on how to modify blocks.



Working with AB Dublin and AB York



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Textures

The AB Courtyard Collection is available in two different textures, the Classic Cut Stone look of Courtyard and the Tumbled Old World look of Old Country Courtyard. Check with your local AB Distributor for color selection and availability.



Courtyard



Old Country Courtyard

Patterns

Using the AB York and the AB Dublin together in random patterns will create an added dimension and style to any project.



Estimating

Use the simple charts below to calculate the block quantity for your project or visit allanblock.com to download an easy to use estimating tool to calculate all the materials that are needed for your project.



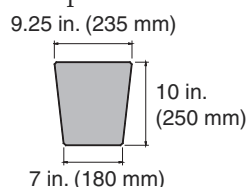
Patterned Wall

Number of AB Dublin Blocks Needed					
Approximate Wall Height	Wall Length				
	4 ft 1.2 m	5 ft 1.5 m	8 ft 2.4 m	12 ft 3.7 m	20 ft 6.1 m
1 course 6 in. (150 mm)	3	4	6	9	15
2 courses 12 in. (300 mm)	6	8	12	18	30
3 courses 18 in. (450 mm)	9	12	18	27	45
4 courses 24 in. (600 mm)	12	16	24	36	60
5 courses 30 in. (750 mm)	15	20	30	45	75
Wall Caps Needed	6	8	12	18	30
For wall panels using AB York blocks, just double the numbers above.					

Number of Corner Blocks Needed for Posts/Pillars					
Approximate Post/Pillar Height	Number of Posts/Pillars				
	1	2	3	4	5
2 courses 12 in. (300 mm)	8	16	24	32	40
3 courses 18 in. (450 mm)	12	24	36	48	60
4 courses 24 in. (600 mm)	16	32	48	64	80
5 courses 30 in. (750 mm)	20	40	60	80	100
6 courses 36 in. (900 mm)	24	48	72	96	120
Post Caps Needed	2	4	6	8	10

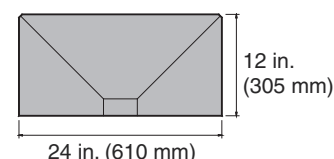
The AB Courtyard Collection is not to be used for retaining wall applications. For estimating more detailed projects with a combination of block sizes, curved or straight walls, see the estimating tools at allanblock.com or contact your local AB Distributor.

Wall Caps



Height: 3.5 in (90 mm)
Weight: 22 lbs (10 kg)

Post Caps



Height: 3.0 in (75 mm)
Weight: 70 lbs (32 kg)

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Building an AB Courtyard Wall Panel



INSTALLING ON EXISTING PATIOS OR PAVEMENT

Step 1: Layout

Determine the location of the wall panel on the existing surface. To ensure that the placement of the wall is straight, and in the location desired, use a string line. Go to Step 5.

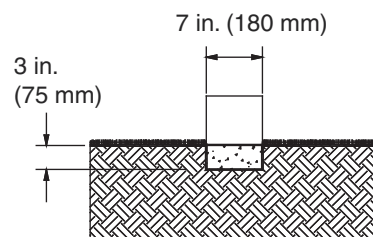
INSTALLING ON SOIL

Step 1: Layout

Determine the location of the wall panel and lay the first course of block to determine the shape of the wall and to establish where to dig the trench. AB Dublin, AB York or both blocks together can be used for the base course. *See page 16 when building with curves and page 18 if corners will be needed. The AB Courtyard Collection can be used to retain two courses of soils, see page 22 for more information.*

Step 2: Build Foundation*

Mark the location of the wall with a shovel, remove the blocks and dig a level trench 3 in. deep and 7 in. wide (75 mm x 180 mm).



Step 3: Fill

Place 3 in. (75 mm) of base rock in the trench and compact using a hand tamper. *See page 13 for information on proper base rock materials.*

*NOTE:

The soil beneath the foundation pad must be a good quality compactable material. If soft soils are encountered, they will need to be removed and replaced with additional base rock. A good foundation will ensure a stable wall for years to come.

Step 4: Level

Level the base rock. We recommend using a 2x4 and a level to ensure the entire base is level. Make any adjustments as needed by adding or removing the base rock.

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Step 5: Build

Install the first two courses of block at the same time, tamping and leveling into place. Place 3-5 blocks in the trench, level, then place 3-5 blocks on the second course. Installing the first two courses at the same time will ensure that the blocks line up properly. The raised rings on the top of the blocks lock the courses together by fitting into the blocks above.



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Step 6: Continue Building

Continue stacking courses of blocks in the pattern you have chosen until the desired height is achieved. Remember to offset the block seams on each course of blocks from the course below. *See the Helpful Tips below for additional information.*

Step 7: Finish

Finish the wall with Wall Caps. On straight sections alternate the direction of the Wall Cap. On curved walls, place the short side of the caps on the inside of the curve. Secure the Wall Caps in place with a bead of masonry adhesive along both sides of the raised rings and along the side of each Wall Cap.



Helpful Tips:

AB Dublin - Install the same angled block one after another, to switch to the other angled AB Dublin, place an AB York block in between. (see photos at right).

AB York - For a straight panel, rotate every other block to create a straight section. For a curved panel, place the short side of the block facing the inside of the curve.

Additional Information:

If taller walls are desired, additional construction information to ensure stability can be found on *How-to sheet #150 at allanblock.com*.

If building your wall panel with posts/pillars, interlock them together for added stability. *For more information see How-to sheet #230 at allanblock.com.*

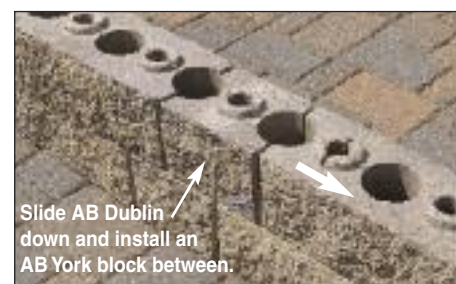
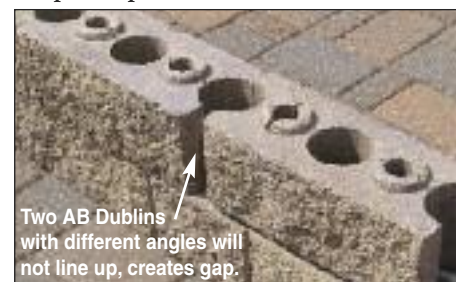
Built on existing patio



Built on soil



Helpful Tip:



Visit allanblock.com.

Building an AB Courtyard Post/Pillar



INSTALLING ON EXISTING PATIOS OR PAVEMENT

Step 1: Layout

Determine the location and placement of the post/pillar on the existing surface. Go to Step 5.

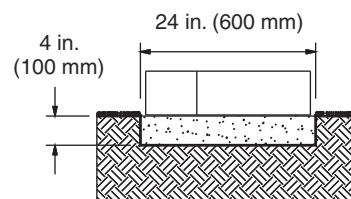
INSTALLING ON SOIL

Step 1: Layout

Determine the location of the post/pillar and lay the first course of block to establish where to dig the foundation pad.

Step 2: Build Foundation*

Mark the location of the post/pillar with a shovel, remove the blocks and dig a hole 24 in. square and 4 in. deep (600 mm x 100 mm).



Step 3: Fill

Place 4 in. (100 mm) of base rock in the hole and compact using a hand tamper. *See page 13 for information on proper base rock materials.*

*NOTE:

The soil beneath the foundation pad must be a good quality compactable material. If soft soils are encountered, they will need to be removed and replaced with additional base rock. A good foundation will ensure a stable post/pillar for years to come.

Step 4: Level

Level the foundation pad. Make any adjustments as needed by adding or removing the base rock.



Step 5: Build

Install the first course with 4 Corner Blocks with the long sides facing out. Square up the blocks, tamp into place and level.

Step 6: Continue Building

Continue stacking courses, alternating between the patterns shown to offset the seams from the course below until the desired height is achieved. Do not stack the blocks up using only one pattern (seams should not create a straight line the full height of the post/pillar).

Step 7: Finish

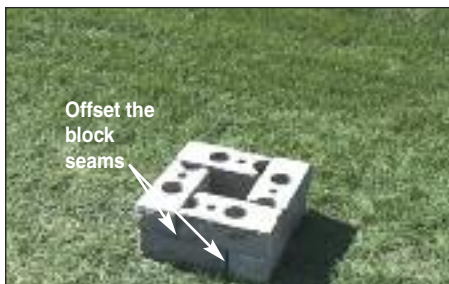
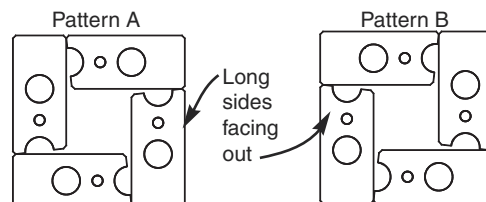
Finish the post/pillar with two Post Caps. Secure the Post Caps in place with a bead of masonry adhesive along the outside edge of the top course of Corner Blocks and then set the Post Caps in place.

Additional Information:

If taller posts/pillars are desired, *additional construction information to ensure stability is available on How-to sheet #140 at allanblock.com.*



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Built on existing foundation



Built on soil



Base Rock Materials when Building on Soil

Using the proper materials to create the base foundation for the panels and post/pillars is important when building on soil. We recommend using a compactible base rock material that is gravel in varying sizes of angular or smooth aggregates similar to the wall rock used in retaining walls or a road/paver base type material.



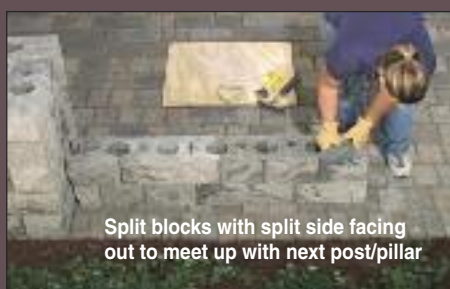
Wall Rock



Road/Paver Base

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Building AB Courtyard Walls and Posts/Pillars Together

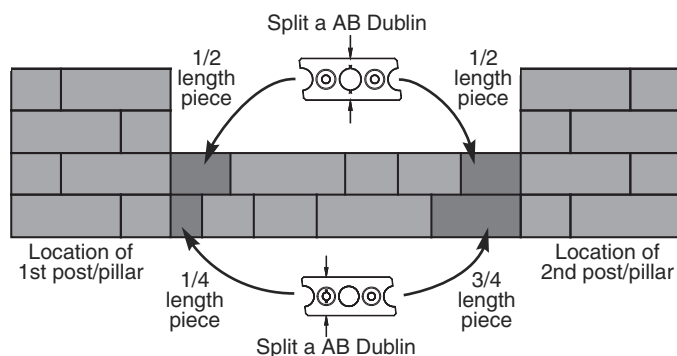


Step 1: Layout

Determine the location of the first post/pillar. Install the post/pillar using Corner Blocks with the long sides facing out. Align and level each course to desired height. Alternate the blocks per course to offset the seams from the blocks below. Make adjustments as needed. *For proper construction on soil, see page 10 for wall panels and page 12 for posts/pillars.*

Step 2: Begin Panel

The first and the last block of every course of wall panel between the posts/pillars will be a split block. Using a split block allows the panel to be flush with the post/pillar. If a standard angled block shape is used there will be a gap where the panel meets up with the post/pillar. Split an AB Dublin to achieve a quarter ($1/4$) and three-quarter ($3/4$) length piece to start the first course. Place the quarter ($1/4$) piece with the split side against the center of the post/pillar to start the first course followed by the next full block. Use the three-quarter ($3/4$) length piece to complete the end of this course where it will meet up with the next post/pillar. We recommend installing the first two courses of the wall panel at the same time to ensure proper alignment.



Step 3: Second Course

On the next course, split an AB Dublin at the half ($1/2$) length to start this course. Place one half of this block with the split side against the post/pillar. Again, save the other half of this piece for the end of this course. To aid in fitting the split blocks, try flipping them over so the raised rings are down.

Step 4: Build Panel

With the first two courses started, continue building the wall panel in the chosen pattern. Build to the location of the next post/pillar. At the end of each section place the remaining split blocks (the $3/4$ and $1/2$ length pieces) on each course that was used to start the course.

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Step 5: Additional Posts/Pillars

At the end of the wall panel, install the next post/pillar as previously done. Place the Corner Blocks with the long sides facing out. Install additional courses until the desired height is achieved. Alternate the blocks to offset the seams from the blocks below.



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Finish wall panel to desired height.

Step 6: Continue Building

With both posts/pillars built, continue stacking the courses of the wall panel to the desired height. Alternate the type of split block for each course as you go.

Step 7: Finish

Finish the wall with Wall and Post Caps. Secure the Wall Caps in place with a bead of masonry adhesive along both sides of the raised rings and along the side of each Wall Cap. Before installing the Post Caps, place a bead of adhesive along the outside edge of the top course of Corner Blocks. Set the Post Caps in place.



Install Post and Wall Caps

Additional Information:

If taller walls and posts/pillars are desired, *additional construction information to ensure stability is available on How-to sheet #140 & #150 at allanblock.com.*

Added stability for the wall can be achieved by interlocking the walls and posts/pillars together. *For more information see How-to sheet #230 at allanblock.com.*

Modifying Blocks

The AB Courtyard Collection blocks come with a built in angle, by splitting the blocks at a quarter (1/4), half (1/2) or three-quarter (3/4) length, you create a straight side to the block. See page 8 for detailed information as to where the blocks are to be cut or split to fit properly. The straight side that is created with splitting is needed when meeting up with a flat surface or when building curves within a wall panel. You can modify the blocks using a hammer and chisel when splitting or a saw with a masonry blade when cutting the block. Some of the blocks are produced with pre-marked splitting notches for ease of locating the cut line, but any of the blocks can be modified.

SAFETY FIRST

Always wear safety glasses when splitting or cutting block. A dust mask and ear protection is recommended when cutting block.

Hammer and Chisel

Use a hammer and chisel, tap around the entire block in the same location where the split is needed to create a quarter (1/4), half (1/2) or three-quarter (3/4) length piece. Then strike the chisel with more force in the score line to break the block.

Saw Option

Use a circular saw to score around the entire block in the same location where the split is needed to create a score line to create a score line for the quarter (1/4), half (1/2) or three-quarter (3/4) length piece. Then with a hammer and chisel, tap around the score line until the block splits. A masonry saw or a metal chop saw can also be used to make a complete cut through the block, eliminating the use of the hammer and chisel.

Corner Blocks

The Corner Blocks can be cut or split using the same process described above.

For more information see How-to sheet #210 at allanblock.com.



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Building Curved Walls with AB Courtyard

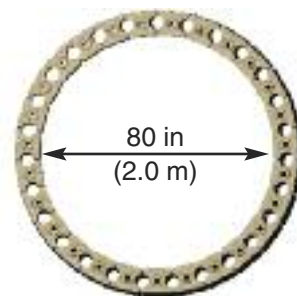


Build a Curve

The AB Courtyard Collection is designed to let you easily build curved and serpentine walls. Simply install the AB York blocks with the long side of the block facing the outside of the curve. When building curved walls it is best to build the first two courses at the same time. This helps align the blocks so additional courses continue to stack properly. *If building on soil, see page 10 to ensure a proper foundation is installed.*

Build a Circle

It takes 28 AB York blocks to make a complete circle. Install the AB York blocks with the long side of the block facing the outside of the circle. A pre-designed diameter for the circle is 81 in. (2.0 m). *See How-to sheet #200 at allanblock.com for larger curves and radii.*



Build a Curve in a Wall Panel

Step 1: Make Adjustments

Before beginning the curve check to make sure both courses are angled correctly. Both courses need to be parallel with each other and angled toward the direction of the curve. If one block is angled the opposite direction, remove the last block and slide the entire course over one block to correct.



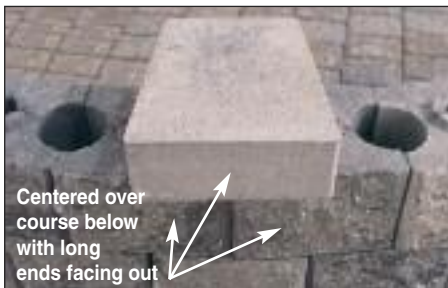
Courses must be parallel

Step 2: Start of the Curve

On the first course, install an AB York block by placing the long side of the block facing the outside of the curve. On the second course, where the wall changes from a curve to a straight section, an AB Dublin will need to be split in a half (1/2) length to be used at the transition. This transition piece will be needed on every other course. *See page 15 or How-to sheet #210 for information on splitting blocks.*



Split block
with split side
facing out



Centered over
course below
with long
ends facing out



Step 3: Build the Curve

With the curve started, stack additional courses using the AB York block and placing all of the blocks with their long sides facing the outside of the curve.

Step 4: End of the Curve

To change the direction back to a straight wall, on the first course at the end of the curve, turn the AB York block around so the short side of the block is facing the outside of the curve. On the second course use the other AB Dublin half (1/2) length piece with the split side facing out and toward the next section of the wall panel.

Step 5: Additional Courses

Repeat this same process as described in Steps 2-4 for any additional courses. Every odd numbered course will be laid out exactly the same with block layout and where the split blocks will be used. The same is true for all even numbered courses.

Step 6: Finishing

Finish the wall with Wall Caps. On curved walls, place the long end of the Wall Caps facing the outside of the curve. For proper alignment, start capping the wall at the curve and place the Wall Cap centered over two AB York blocks with their long ends facing out. To transition the Wall Caps back to a straight section, alternate the direction of the Wall Cap. Secure the Wall Caps in place with a bead of masonry adhesive along both sides of the raised rings and along the side of each Wall Cap.

Additional Information:

Larger radii can be built using one of the repeating pre-set patterns. *For more information see How-to sheet #200 at allanblock.com.*



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Building Corners with AB Courtyard



Build a Corner

The AB Courtyard Collection is designed to let you easily make corners using the Corner Block. Splitting blocks will be required on every course. *See page 15 or How-to sheet #210 for information on splitting.*

Step 1: Layout

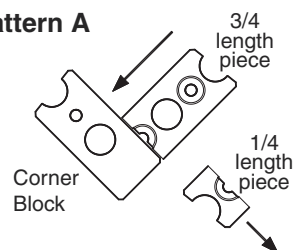
Walls that have corners in the design will need to be built starting at the corner. Determine the location of the corner and place a Corner Block. Installing the first two courses at the same time will ensure proper alignment of the entire project.

Step 2: Build the Corner

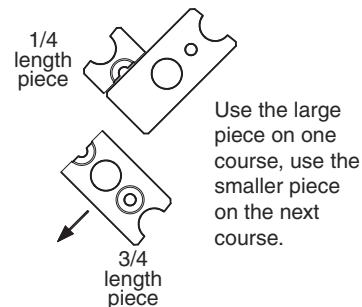
Split an AB Dublin to achieve a quarter (1/4) and three-quarter (3/4) length piece. Place the split end against the Corner Block to create the corner, see Pattern A. Splitting the block creates a straight edge so there will not be a gap where the blocks meet. An AB York split to create a half (1/2) length block will also work.

Split an AB Dublin to create a 1/4 and 3/4 length piece

Pattern A



Pattern B



Step 3: Second Course

On this course, alternate the position of the Corner Block to face the opposite direction of the one on the first course, see Pattern B. Use the remaining split piece and place it with the split side against the corner to finish the corner.

Step 4: Continue Building

Build the remaining wall out in both directions in the pattern chosen. Use the above process for any additional courses or corners in the project. To aid in fitting the split blocks, try flipping them over so the raised rings are down.



Capping a Corner

Step 1: Wall Caps First Direction

Finish the corner with Wall Caps. Starting at the corner, place the first two Wall Caps following the wall in the same direction. Place the first Wall Cap with the long end facing the outside of the wall. Alternate the direction of the second Wall Cap for a straight wall.



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Step 2: Wall Caps Second Direction

Next place a Wall Cap on the other side of the corner. Place the short end of the Wall Cap facing the outside of the wall. Make adjustments to the first two Wall Caps to ensure they line up properly at the corner.

Step 3: Finish

Secure the Wall Caps in place with a bead of masonry adhesive along both sides of the raised rings and along the side of each Wall Cap.



Modifying Wall Caps for Corners

Cutting Caps for the Corner (Optional)

Finishing the corner with Wall Caps can be done as shown above, or by modifying the cap slightly gives the corner a more refined look.

Step 1: Mark and Cut Caps

Using a tape measure and straight edge, mark the cut line on two cap blocks as shown. Use a masonry saw with a dry cutting diamond blade to make a complete cut.

Step 2: Place Caps on Corner

Place the cut caps on the corner as shown. Continue stacking additional caps out from the corner.

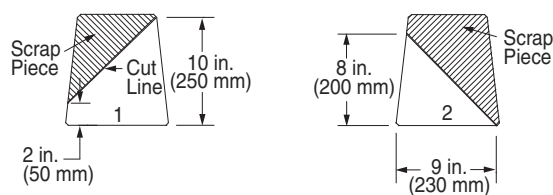
Step 3: Finish

Secure the Wall Caps in place with a bead of masonry adhesive along both sides of the raised rings and along the side of each Wall Cap.

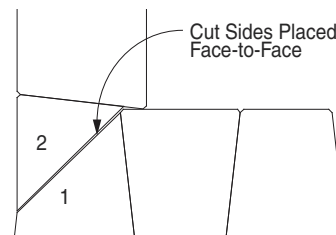
SAFETY FIRST

Always wear safety glasses when splitting or cutting block. A dust mask and ear protection is recommended when cutting block.

Step 1



Step 2



Ending Wall Panels with AB Courtyard



The AB Courtyard Collection is designed to let you easily step down or end the walls in a number of ways. You can also end a wall panel at a post/pillar, *see page 14 for more information*.

Use Corner Blocks to End the Wall

Option 1:

Step 1: Place Corner Blocks as the last block so that the blocks step back on each course to give the wall a finished look.



Step 2: Secure the Wall Caps in place with a bead of masonry adhesive along both sides of the raised rings and along the side of each Wall Cap.

Use Corner Blocks for a Gradual Step Down

Option 2:

This option may require cutting a Wall Cap to fill a gap on each course.

Step 1: Place blocks on each course to end the wall in the look you want. The larger the space between courses, the longer the staggered look will be.

Step 2: Place Wall Caps on the panel with the cap tight against the Corner Block that is ending the course above.

Step 3: If the gap at the end of the wall is not the look you desire, slide the entire course of caps to the end of the wall, measure the gap and cut a Wall Cap to fit. *See Option 3 or How-to sheet #210 for information on splitting and cutting blocks.*

Step 4: Secure the Wall Caps in place with a bead of masonry adhesive along both sides of the raised rings and along the side of each Wall Cap.





Use Extra Wall Caps for a Staggered Look Option 3:

This option requires cutting a Wall Cap to fill a gap on each course.

Step 1: Place blocks on each course to end the wall in the look you want. The larger the space between courses, the longer the staggered look will be.

Step 2: Place Wall Caps on the panel with the Wall Cap even with the course below. This will leave a gap where a Wall Cap will need to be measured and cut to fit. *See below or How-to sheet #210 for information on splitting and cutting blocks.*

Step 3: Once the cut blocks are installed, place another Wall Cap where the course steps down to give the end a finished look.

Step 4: Secure the Wall Caps in place with a bead of masonry adhesive along both sides of the raised rings and along the side of each Wall Cap.



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Modifying Wall Caps for Wall Panels

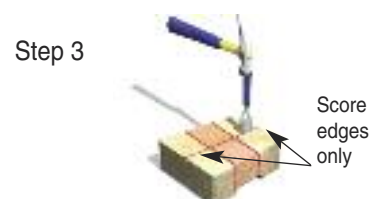
Step 1: Score the top and bottom of the block with a circular saw with a masonry blade.

Step 2: Using a hammer and chisel, score the bottom of the block in notched area.

Step 3: Score the top with a chisel on the **outer edges only**. Strike harder blows in the scored area to split the block. **Do not score over the notch as the block will split the wrong way.**

SAFETY FIRST

Always wear safety glasses when splitting or cutting block. Dust masks and ear protection are recommended when cutting block.



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Retaining Soil using AB Courtyard



Step 1: Layout

Determine the location of the wall panel and lay the first course of block to determine the shape of the wall and to establish where to dig the trench. AB Dublin, AB York or both blocks together can be used for the base course. *See page 16 when building with curves and page 18 if corners will be needed.*

Step 2: Build Foundation*

Mark the location of the wall with a shovel, remove the blocks, sod and other surface materials. Dig a level trench 8 in. deep and 12 in. wide (200 mm x 300 mm). On sloped sites, "step up" the base when it gets more than 6 in. (150 mm) deep, *see page 23 for more information.*

Step 3: Fill

Place 6 in. (150 mm) of base rock in the trench and compact using a hand tamper. *See page 13 for information on proper base rock materials.*

*NOTE:

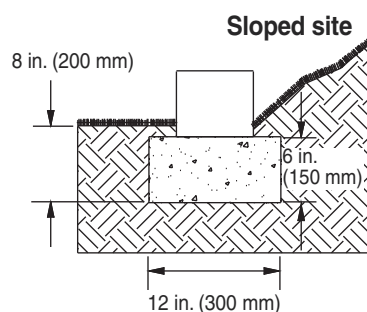
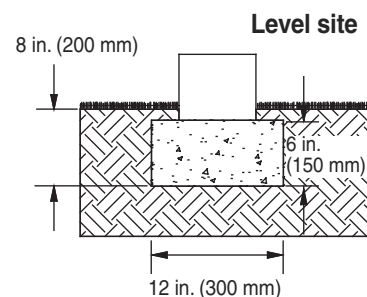
The soil beneath the foundation pad must be a good quality compactable material. If soft soils are encountered, they will need to be removed and replaced with additional base rock. A good foundation will ensure a stable wall for years to come.

Step 4: Level

Level the base rock. We recommend using a 2x4 and a level to ensure the entire base is level. Make any adjustments as needed by adding or removing base rock.

Step 5: Build

Place 3-5 blocks in the trench, with the raised rings facing up, leveling each block as you go. The raised rings on the top of the blocks lock the courses together. Using base rock, fill the block openings. Sweep the top of the blocks and install 3-5 blocks of the 2nd course. Installing the first two courses at the same time will ensure that the blocks line up properly.



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Step 6: Build Next Section

Install the next section of the base course, leveling each block as you go. Fill all the block openings for the first and second course with base rock, then sweep the top of the blocks clean. Install the next section of the second course of blocks, offsetting the block seams from the course below then install base rock in the block openings. Use these steps, continue building the first and second course in sections for the length of the wall. *See the Helpful Tips on page 11 about block placement.*



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Step 7: Wall Caps

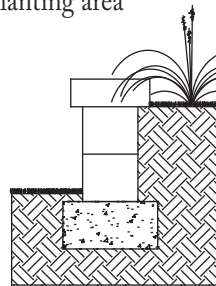
Finish the wall with Wall Caps. On straight sections alternate the direction of the Wall Cap. On curved walls, place the short side of the caps on the inside of the curve. Secure the Wall Caps in place with a bead of masonry adhesive along both sides of the raised rings and along the side of each Wall Cap. Completing the entire AB Courtyard wall prior to backfilling the retained soil is recommended.

Step 8: Backfilling and Compaction

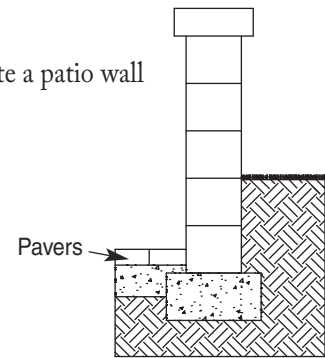
With the AB Courtyard wall finished and Wall Caps glued in place, backfill 6 in. (150 mm) of soil behind the block up to the top of the first course. Use a hand tamper to carefully compact soil thoroughly. Install another 6 in. (150 mm) of soil up to the top of the second course, again use a hand tamper to compact soil in place.

AB Courtyard can be built taller than two courses, but only a maximum height of two block courses can be used to retain soil. *For added stability options, see How-To Sheet #150 or to retain soil taller than shown here, see our Retaining Walls Installation guide for walls up to 6 ft. (1.8 m) tall using our retaining wall products at allanblock.com.*

Create a planting area



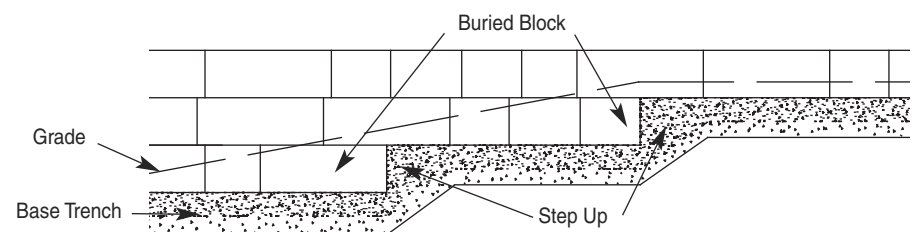
Create a patio wall



Stepping Up the Base Course

Building Step-Ups into the Slope

This can be easily done, by extending the base trench into the slope far enough to bury one block for each step up that is needed. Then continue with Step 3 and fill trench with base rock and compact to create a solid foundation.



Visit allanblock.com.

AB Weekend Projects

Patio Enclosure

In no time you can be sitting on your patio and enjoying your new living space. For an added touch, install lighting features.



To build a Patio Enclosure you will need AB York, AB Dublin, AB Corners, and Post and Wall Caps. *See How-to Sheet #260 for complete details.*

Step 1 - Measure existing patio and mark approximate location of posts/pillars, wall panels and openings to exit patio.

Step 2 - Starting at the corner, install 2 courses at a time.

Step 3 - Build out in both directions to the next post/pillar locations.

Step 4 - Build posts/pillars and continue with any additional wall panels.

Step 5 - Build additional courses.

Step 6 - Install Wall and Post Caps.



Fire Pit

In just a few hours, you can be sitting in front of a roaring fire, with your feet up, enjoying the evening. Using just one block shape and Wall Caps from the AB Courtyard Collection, you can add a beautiful accent to your landscape.

To build a Fire pit you will need AB York blocks and Wall Caps. *See How-to Sheet #360 for complete details.*

Step 1 - Determine location and mark out with a shovel.

Step 2 - Remove sod and dig trench for foundation.

Step 3 - Prepare foundation pad and level.

Step 4 - Install AB York blocks and Wall Caps.

Step 5 - Install decorative rock.

Step 6 - Place metal fire ring, wood and enjoy!



Garden Bench

This project stacks up in no time. Just stack the AB Corner Block up in the pre-set patterns per course, place the Post Caps and a seating material and you are done.

To build an Outdoor Bench you will need AB Corners and Post Caps. *See How-to Sheet #320 for complete details.*

- Step 1 - Determine location and mark out with a shovel.
- Step 2 - Remove sod and dig hole for each side.
- Step 3 - Prepare foundation pads and level.
- Step 4 - Build first post/pillar following pattern.
- Step 5 - Build second post/pillar following pattern.
- Step 6 - Install Post Caps and seating material.



Backyard Couch

Do you entertain guests in your backyard or patio and wish you had more seating? This couch option is what you need. Stack up the blocks in the preset patterns; add caps and seating material and you are all set.

To build a Backyard Couch you will need AB York, AB Dublin, AB Corners and Wall Caps. *See How-to Sheet #350 for complete details.*

- Step 1 - Determine layout and location.
- Step 2 - Install first 3 courses with preset pattern.
- Step 3 - Install next 3 courses with altered pattern.
- Step 4 - Install Wall Caps.
- Step 5 - Install seating and armrest material.



Visit allanblock.com/projects for complete installation details.

AB Weekend Projects

Outdoor Kitchen

By following the pre-set patterns, this kitchen goes up quickly. Adjustments can be made to accommodate larger grill sizes, or a longer counter top space to allow for shelving or a refrigerator.

To build an outdoor kitchen you will need AB York, AB Dublin, AB Corners, Wall Caps and a counter top material. See *How-to Sheet #341* for complete details.

- Step 1 - Determine layout and location.
- Step 2 - Layout the first course, splitting blocks as needed.
- Step 3 - Layout the next 5 courses per the pattern, splitting blocks as needed.
- Step 4 - Install the top course following the pattern. This course needs to be installed with the raised rings down to allow placement of the Wall Caps and the counter top material.
- Step 5 - Install Wall Caps and chosen counter tops; secure with adhesive.
- Step 6 - Move the grill into place and you are ready to entertain in style.



BBQ Grilling Station

By following the patterns for each course, your BBQ Grilling Station will be ready for use in no time. For a quick installation, build it on an existing patio area; information on building on alternative foundations is available at allanblock.com.

To build a BBQ Grilling Station you will need AB York, AB Dublin, AB Corners, Wall Caps and counter top material. See *How-to Sheet #290* for complete details.

- Step 1 - Determine layout and location.
- Step 2 - Build first post/pillar following pattern.
- Step 3 - Build back wall panel.
- Step 4 - Build 2nd post/pillar.
- Step 5 - Build additional courses.
- Step 6 - Install Counter tops and Wall Caps.



Below Ground Pond/Water Feature

To create a low profile accent to your yard or garden, add a below ground pond with the AB Courtyard Collection. You can be enjoying your new surroundings before the weekend is over.

To build a Below Ground Pond you will need AB York blocks and Wall Caps. *See How-to Sheet #310 for complete details.*

- Step 1 - Determine location and mark out with a shovel.
- Step 2 - Remove sod and dig hole for foundation.
- Step 3 - Prepare foundation pad and level.
- Step 4 - Install temporary course of blocks for placement.
- Step 5 - Remove blocks and install flexible pond liner.
- Step 6 - Reinstall blocks.
- Step 7 - Backfill blocks and liner.
- Step 8 - Install top course of blocks and Wall Caps.
- Step 9 - Add decorative rock, fountain and water.



Above Ground Pond/Water Feature

Easily enhance your flower garden with a beautiful water feature. With no special tools you can complete this quickly for a dramatic new look.

To build an Above Ground Pond you will need AB York blocks and Wall Caps. *See How-to Sheet #280 for complete details.*

- Step 1 - Determine location and mark out with a shovel.
- Step 2 - Remove sod and dig trench for foundation.
- Step 3 - Prepare foundation pad and level.
- Step 4 - Install 3 courses of blocks.
- Step 5 - Install pond liner.
- Step 6 - Install Wall Caps.
- Step 7 - Install water feature and water.



Visit allanblock.com/projects for complete installation details.

AB Weekend Projects

Entry Monument with Planter

In just a weekend you can create a beautiful plantable entry monument that will give your yard great curb appeal.

To build an Entry Monument with a planter you will need AB York, AB Dublin, AB Corners, Post and Wall Caps. See *How-to Sheet #370 for complete details.*

- Step 1 - Determine location and mark out with a shovel.
- Step 2 - Remove sod or top soil and dig trench.
- Step 3 - Prepare foundation pad and level.
- Step 4 - Install 1st course of block following preset pattern.
- Step 5 - Install additional courses of back wall and posts/pillars.
- Step 6 - Install caps.



Entry Monument

Add instant curb appeal to your entryway in just a weekend. For a dramatic look, add lighting or plantings to the top of the posts/pillars or decorate for the different seasons.

To build an eye catching Entry Monument you will need AB York, AB Corners, and Post and Wall Caps. See *How-to Sheet #300 for complete details.*

- Step 1 - Determine location and mark out with a shovel.
- Step 2 - Remove sod and dig trench for foundation.
- Step 3 - Prepare foundation pad and level.
- Step 4 - Install AB York blocks following pre-set pattern.
- Step 5 - Install Wall and Post Caps.



Compost Bin

Go green and help the environment with your own compost bin. Recycle your yard waste and household degradable garbage. Using the pre-set pattern makes this project a snap.

To build a Compost Bin you will need AB York, AB Dublin, AB Corners and Wall Caps. *See How-to Sheet #380 for complete details.*

- Step 1 - Determine location and mark out with a shovel.
- Step 2 - Remove sod or top soil and dig trench.
- Step 3 - Prepare foundation pad and level.
- Step 4 - Install and level 1st course of block. Check for square.
- Step 5 - Install additional courses following pattern.
- Step 6 - Install Wall Caps and secure with adhesive.
- Step 7 - Build and install cover, improve your environment.



Light Post

Illuminate your entryway or landscape with a light post. The additional light will accent your surroundings and make a great impression with your guests.

To build a Light Post you will need AB Corners and Post Caps. *See How-to Sheet #170 for complete details.*

- Step 1 - Determine location and mark out with a shovel.
- Step 2 - Run electrical wiring per code.
- Step 3 - Prepare foundation pad and level.
- Step 4 - Build 1st course of post/pillar, level and adjust.
- Step 5 - Install additional courses to desired height.
- Step 6 - Modify and install Post Caps to allow for wiring.
- Step 7 - Install light fixture.



Visit allanblock.com/projects for complete installation details.



Create an outdoor space that is comfortable and elegant for entertaining family and friends. Use the **AB Courtyard Collection** to create an environment that works with your home and lifestyle.





Use **AB Courtyard** to create a new personal living space right in your backyard. Easily incorporate custom gates, counter tops, natural stone or pavers as beautiful accents for even more style.





Raised Patios using Allan Block Retaining Walls

The Allan Block line of retaining wall products and the AB Courtyard Collection work perfectly together. By using the same product you will find matching colors and styles, so your project will look like a masterpiece.





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Fencing or Screening

The AB Courtyard Collection can be used to build privacy into your landscape. Install a gate to your patio, or railings on top for added screening.

Lighting

Lighting can be added to posts/pillars and wall panels. By making a few modifications to allow for wiring and the fixture, you can illuminate your outdoor activities and entertaining with style.



Visit allanblock.com.



AB Fence™ System

The perfect choice for fencing and sound barrier applications between homes, businesses or along roadways.



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Allan Block has many other products available to help with your landscaping needs. Visit our website at allanblock.com for the latest information, product availability, color selection and more.



AB Fieldstone Collection®

Our Eco-Friendly "Green" retaining wall offers the look of natural stone in a lightweight and user-friendly product. With different facing textures and colors available, you can find the perfect "natural" look for your project.

AB® Retaining Walls

Top off your AB® or AB Europa® Collection raised patio with AB Courtyard. Create a square or curved patio, add in a grilling area or firepit. By using the two products together anything is possible. With matching colors and facing textures, your project will compliment the backyard.



Available At:

