

Installation Guidelines

Natural Wall Stone

MORTARED WALL APPLICATIONS

- » Prepare a concrete footing that will be 2" wider on each side than the finished thickness of the wall. Footer depth should be below the frost line, which will vary by region. Insert a reinforcing bar into the footer so that it is standing up vertically, but is 6" shorter than the finished elevation of the structure.
- » Set up string lines for corners and finished height as necessary.
- » Select the proper setting materials based on the type of stone being set. This mixture will vary by region due to climate and seismic changes. A good general mix combines 1 part Portland Type II cement with 3 parts of clean sand.
- » Mix this dry and add potable water until a stiff mortar is achieved. This mix should be capable of being compressed by hand and should hold its shape, allowing no water to emit from the mix. Always measure quantities to ensure a consistent mix for each batch of mortar required.
- » Clean all loose dirt from the stone before it is set and keep the face of the stone free of mortar. If any mortar gets on the face let it dry slightly, remove with a brush, and sponge off any loose residue left behind. Backfill behind stone with mortar and stone chips to obtain a solid structure.
- » Run some stones through the wall from face to face to act as "bond stones."
- » If a jointed look is desired, fill the spaces or joints between the stones more than the desired depth. Also, keep the running vertical and horizontal joints to a maximum length of 18". Let the mortar set slightly and rake out the excess to the desired depth. Brush-finish the joint, if desired.
- » Protect finished work from the weather by covering with a waterproof barrier. Allow the mortar to cure for 5 days and then remove the barrier.

DRystack WALL APPLICATIONS

- » Determine if the wall will be a freestanding or retaining structure and select the desired stone suitable for the type of project. Determine the thickness of the structure by looking at the height of the structure and the average size of the stone that has been chosen.
- » Excavate a trench with a depth below the frost line for your geographic area. This should be the width and length of the completed wall.
- » Compact the ditch and install a 4" layer of clean crushed stone in the bottom of the ditch and compact again.
- » Begin setting the stone and level each stone with its adjacent stone. Overlap each joint between stones with another stone setting on top. Make sure to batter the face of the structure back 1/2" for every 12" in height (refer to drawing). This will allow for movement if the wall is pushed forward.
- » Use bond stones (refer to drawing) throughout the thickness of the structure to tie the faces of the structure together. If building a retaining structure make sure that bond stones protrude back into the soil being retained.
- » Choose capstones that will span the entire width of the structure. This will add stability.

