



**ALLAN
BLOCK**

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Ending and Topping Off Walls

TECH SHEET #1096
PAGE 1

AB Offers Many Options For Ending Walls

One of the unique benefits that sets Allan Block apart from other retaining wall systems is a great variety of options for ending and stepping down walls. With Allan Block, you can turn wall ends back into the hillside with right angles corners or smooth flowing curves. Wall step downs can be achieved with a variety of finishing options. No other retaining wall system gives you the great variety of choices for finishing off your wall project.

Special Considerations When Ending Walls

• DESIGN

The method for ending walls should enhance the overall landscape project. Typically, smooth flowing curves turning back into the hillside will compliment most landscape designs and are the easiest to build (Fig. 1).

• DRAINAGE

Walls with ends that turn back into the hillside (Fig. 1) help prevent erosion behind the wall. Walls that have step-down ends (Fig. 2) may be exposed to erosion as water drains down the end.

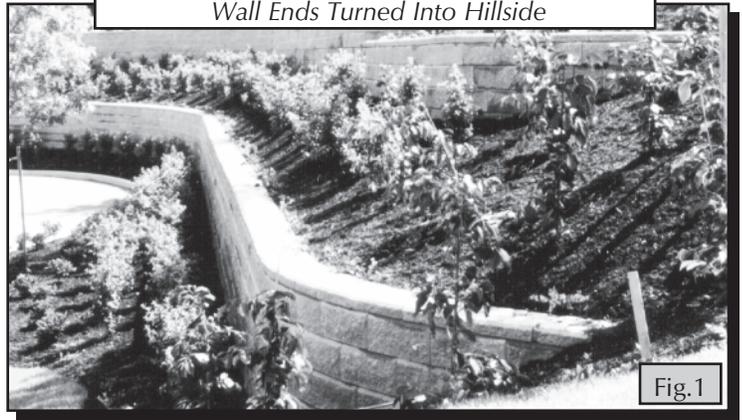
• TIME

Some methods of building wall turn-ins and step downs, like right angle corners with cut blocks, may require extra time for cutting, spacing and fitting blocks (Fig. 3). For a quality job, allow yourself a little extra time for constructing the details.

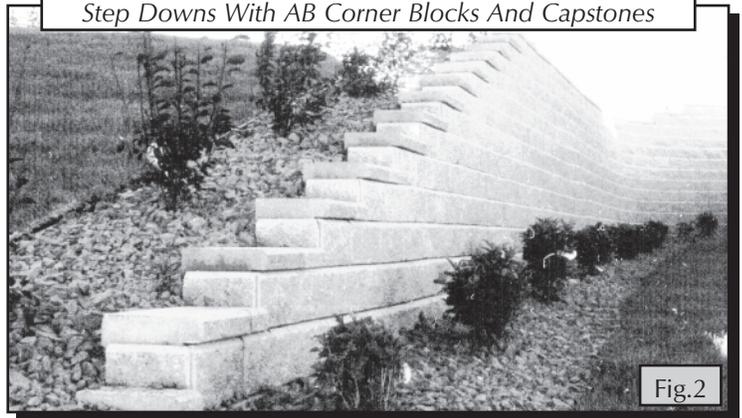
• FINISHES

Choose a wall topping or finish material to match your landscape project. Allan Block's built-in front lip provides a natural edging for a variety of finishing materials including AB Capstones, landscape pavers, poured concrete, crushed rock, flagstones and mulches (Fig. 4).

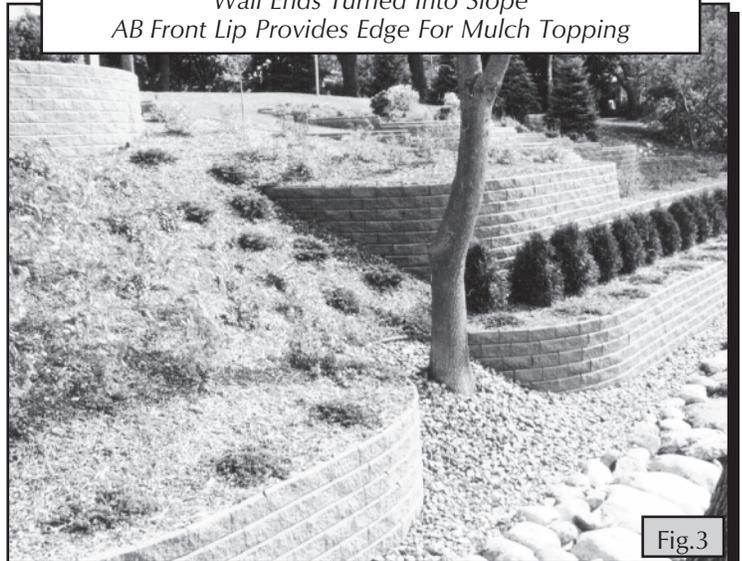
Wall Ends Turned Into Hillside



Step Downs With AB Corner Blocks And Capstones



Wall Ends Turned Into Slope
AB Front Lip Provides Edge For Mulch Topping



Options For Topping Off A Wall

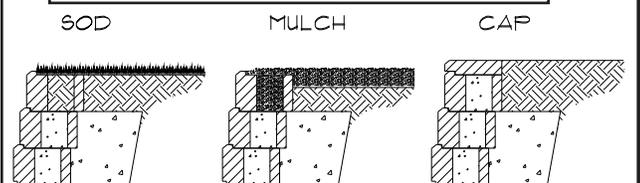
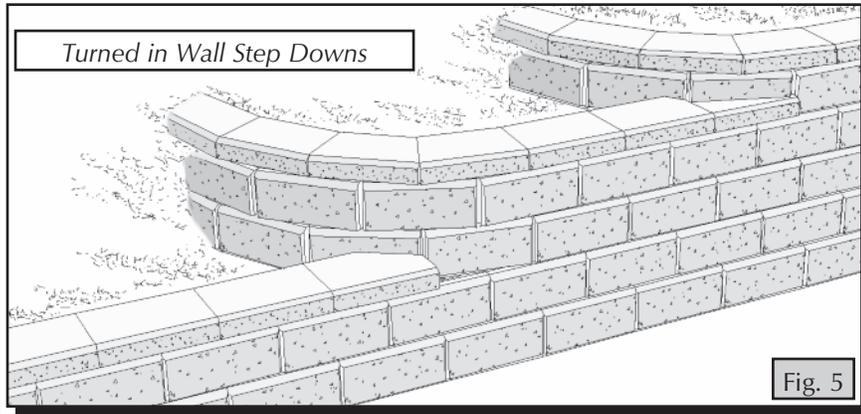


Fig.4

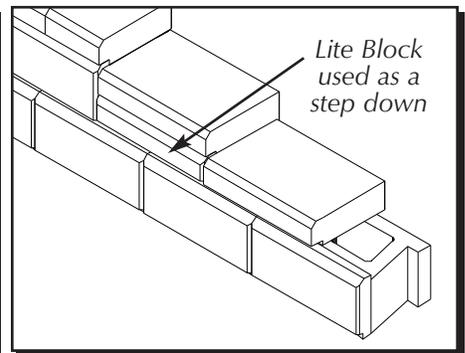
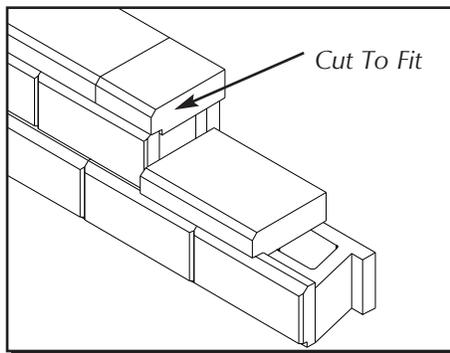
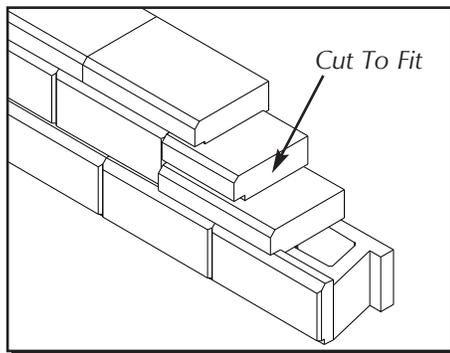
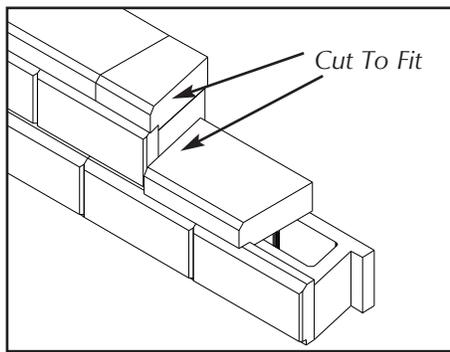
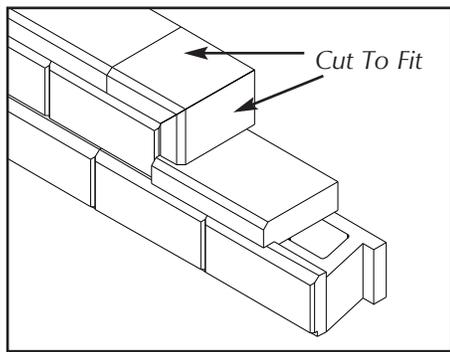


BUILDING TURN-INS WITHOUT USING CORNER BLOCKS

The simplest and easiest method of ending Allan Block walls is to use smooth flowing curves that turn back into the hillside (Fig. 5). The benefits of this method include:

- no cutting of blocks
- no corner blocks
- less time & expense to build
- superior erosion control
- attractive design

STEP DOWNS OPTIONS



BUILDING STEP DOWNS WITH AB CAPSTONES

Allan Block offers many options for finishing off wall step downs. A masonry saw with a diamond tipped cutting blade is necessary for cutting blocks to achieve the options shown at left.

Construction Notes

GRANULAR BASE AND BACKFILL MATERIAL: Allan Block recommends using the same material for the base, the drain field within the block cores and 6-12 in. (15-30 cm) behind the wall. We recommend a well draining compactible aggregate, ranging in size from 0.25 in. to 1.5 in. (6.4 mm to 3.8 cm) diameter. See your local aggregate sources for availability.

COMPACTION: Use a plate compactor to compact material in 8 in. (20.3 cm) lifts. Run the compactor on top of the block to lock them in position. Compact parallel to the wall, working from the front of the wall to the back of the infill material. Keep heavy equipment a minimum of 3 ft (0.9 m) from the back of the wall. Use extra care when compacting clay soil.

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The information shown here is for use with Allan Block products only.

