

Building A Light Post

Basic Steps for Building a Light Post



Building a light post is easy. Light posts can be built on existing patios or pavement, as well as on an unfinished surface such as soil or grass. To install on an unfinished surface, a foundation pad must be constructed to provide a solid base. (See *How-to sheet #120 & #220.*) **This project demonstrates how to build a light post that is 3 ft. (1 m) tall on an unfinished surface.**

Step 1: Prepare the Foundation

Prepare a foundation pad by removing the sod and digging a hole 24 in. square (600 mm) by 4 in. (100 mm) deep.

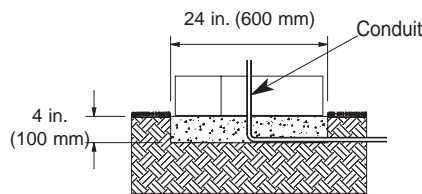


Poor soil conditions under the foundation pad may require additional attention. See *How-to sheet #140* for more foundation information.

Step 2: Install Ground Wiring

Run the conduit from the electrical source to the center of the foundation pad. (Figure 1). We recommend placing the wire in plastic conduit for protection. Always follow local electrical codes for proper conduit installation depth and wiring requirements.

Figure 1: Conduit Installation



Step 3: Add the Base Material

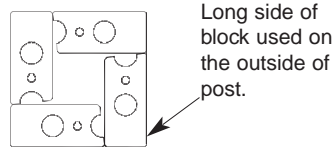
Lay 4 in. (100 mm) of crushed rock in the foundation pad and thoroughly compact with a hand compactor, leveling in all directions.



Step 4: Install the Base Course

To begin the post base course, place 4 Corner Blocks with the long sides facing out (Figure 2). Align the blocks with a square, and level with a dead blow hammer.

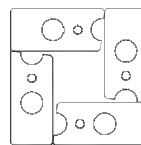
Figure 2: Base Course Layout



Step 5: Continue Stacking Courses

Place the second course of blocks by alternating the pattern to offset the vertical seams. Continue stacking courses, alternating the pattern until the desired height is achieved. Add the final length of conduit and run the wiring to the top of the post, making sure that the wiring extends up past the post and Post Cap.

Figure 3: Second Course Layout



Corner Block



Post Cap



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Step 6: Capping and Wiring

Finish the post with two Post Caps. Each cap will need a notch cut out of the center for the wiring. Using a skill saw with a masonry blade, in the center of both Post Caps make a 2 in. (50 mm) wide notch, by making several 1 in. (25 mm) deep cuts to score the area. Then with a hammer and chisel, knock out the small pieces. Once the notch is completed, place both Post Caps on the post so that the notches line up.



Step 7: Securing Caps (optional)

Apply a bead of masonry adhesive near the outside edge of each Corner Block (optional). Place the caps on top of the post, making sure that your conduit extends up through the hole in the Post Caps.



Step 8: Mounting the Light

To mount the light base, position it in the center of the post. Mark the position of the screw holes. Drill holes for the masonry anchors using a power drill with a masonry bit. Insert the anchors into the holes, add the light base and fasten to the Post Cap with screws.



Once the light base is attached to the post, complete the wiring for your light using the factory instructions, then attach the light to the light base.

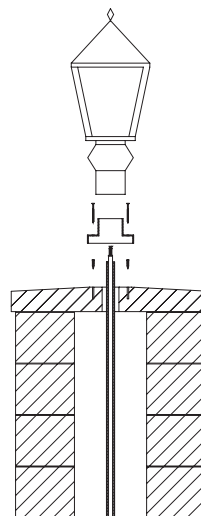


Materials Needed:

- 24 Corner Blocks
- 2 Post Caps
- 1 Tube of Masonry Adhesive (optional)
- 3-50 lbs Bags of Crushed Rock
- Light Fixture
- Electrical Wiring

Tools Needed:

- Square
- Measuring Tape
- Level
- Dead Blow Hammer
- Saw with a Masonry Blade
- Hand Compactor
- Hammer & Chisel
- Drill with a Masonry Bit
- Safety Glasses
- Work Gloves



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