

Building A Post/Pillar

Basic Steps for Building a Post/Pillar



Posts create beautiful accents to any project. Use them as entry monuments, light posts or as an architectural feature to your landscape. Posts can be built on existing patios or pavement, as well as on soil. This How-to sheet shows you how to do both.

INSTALLING ON SOIL

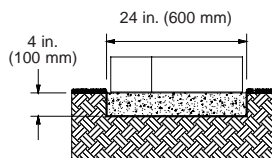
Step 1: Layout

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



Step 3: Fill

Place 4 in. (100 mm) of crushed rock in the hole and compact using a hand tamper.



Corner Block

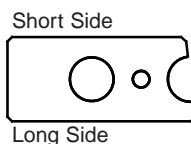
NOTE:

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 crushed rock. A good foundation will ensure a stable post for years to come.

Step 4: Build

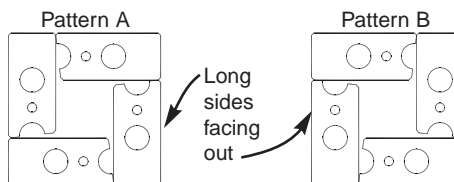
Install the first course with 4 Corner Blocks with the long sides facing out. Square up the blocks, tamp into place and level.

Corner Block



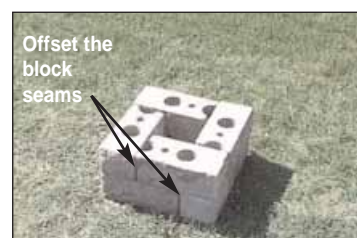
Step 5: Continue Building

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).



Step 6: Finish

Finish the post 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. (adhesive optional).



*Taller posts will require added stability.
 See How-to sheet #140 for more information.

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INSTALLING ON EXISTING PATIOS OR PAVEMENT

Step 1: Layout

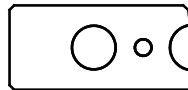
Determine the location and placement of the post.

Step 2: Build

Install the first course with 4 Corner Blocks with the long sides facing out. Square up and level the blocks. Use shims if needed to help level the blocks if the existing surface being built on is not level.

Corner Block

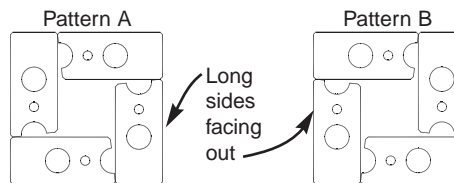
Short Side



Long Side

Step 3: 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).



Step 4: Finish

Finish the wall 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. (adhesive optional).

**Taller posts will require added stability.
See How-to sheet #140 for more information.*

