

# Easy Step®

## HOW TO BUILD USING EASY STEP

2017

### 1. Check with your local council

Please consult with your local council for design regulations prior to the construction of your wall and steps.

Most councils require walls and steps over 1.0m to be designed and certified by a suitably qualified professional engineer.

Consultation with a qualified engineer is also strongly recommended where significant groundwater or stormwater build up is anticipated, when a car or building is nearby, for walls in steep or unstable terrain, or when uncertain about ground conditions. Any of these factors will affect the structural performance of a retaining wall, irrespective of wall height.

Each council has different requirements so it is important you check with your council before you begin.

Boral shall have no responsibility for walls or steps constructed other than in accordance with the specifications and recommendations contained in this guide.

### 2. Calculate how many Easy Step blocks are required

Measure the proposed step length and height. Divide the height by 120mm (12cm) in order to establish the quantity of blocks required to achieve the proposed height.

The number of steps determines the quantity of Easy Step blocks required to achieve installation. (See Easy Step block positioning in Diagram A)

The Easy Step block will create a step column 1.0m wide. If more than one column of Easy Step blocks are required, multiply the single column quantity accordingly in 1.0m increments.

### 3. Locate your steps

Establish the depth of the footprint created by the bottom course of Easy Step blocks. Each additional step requires an additional block in that row, e.g.

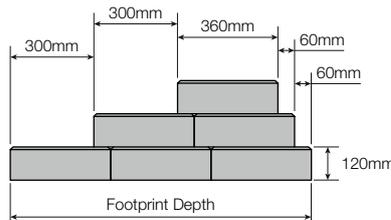
- 1 step = 1 block deep = 360mm deep
- 2 steps = 2 blocks deep = 720mm deep
- 3 steps = 3 blocks deep = 1080mm deep

**Tip:** There are two options for establishing the location of the footprint for the steps. One is to mark the location of the top step, then mark 60mm (6cm) increments from the rear of the top step for every planned step and then measure the footprint area forward from that position (See Diagram B).

The other is to mark the location of the front of the lowest planned step, then measure the footprint area back from that position. (See Diagram B)

Each Easy Step block must be offset 300mm (30cm) from the one below. (See Diagram B)

**Diagram B**

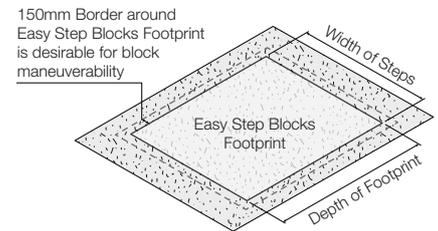


Mark out the ground where your wall and steps will be located (either by marking with stakes and a string line or by marking a line on the ground with spray paint).

### 4. Prepare the site

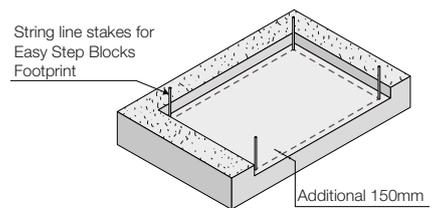
Mark an additional 150mm (15cm) border around the steps footprint. (See Diagram C)

**Diagram C**



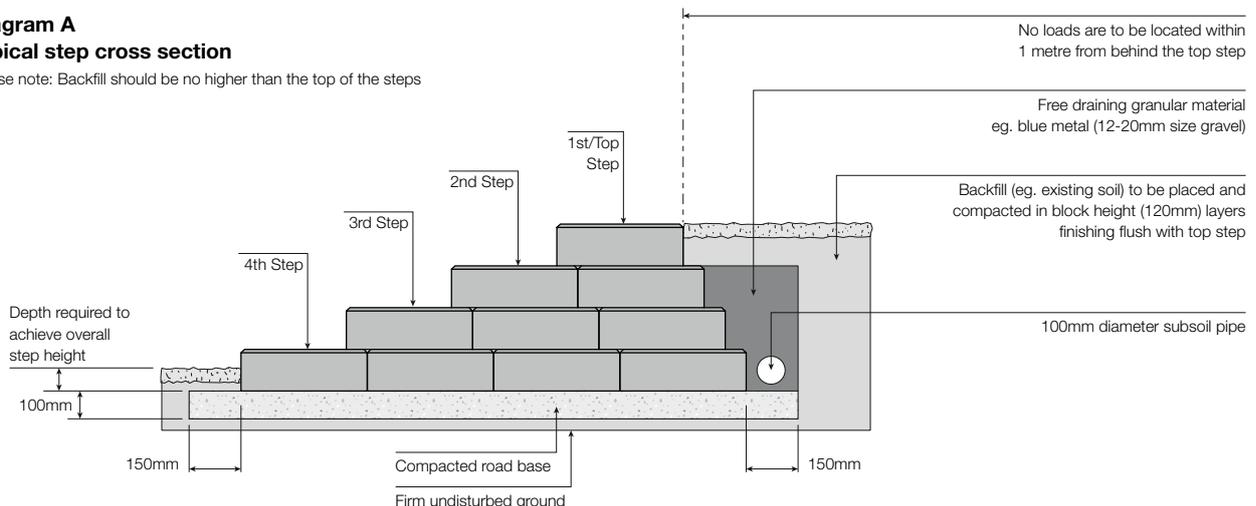
Dig out the Easy Step blocks footprint, including the 150mm border, to a depth that will allow the top step to finish at the required height plus an additional 100mm (10cm) for compacted road base. (See Diagram D) Remove any roots and soft earth before filling the trench with road base. (See Diagram A) Compact and level until the road base forms a 100mm (10cm) levelling pad. (See Diagram A)

**Diagram D**



**Diagram A**  
**Typical step cross section**

Please note: Backfill should be no higher than the top of the steps



# Easy Step®

## HOW TO BUILD USING EASY STEP

### 5. Lay the first course

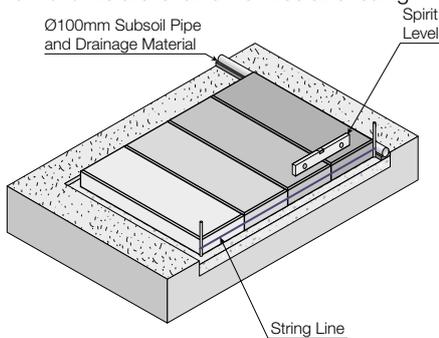
Begin laying the Easy Step blocks on the levelling pad at the established footprint mark.

If the width of the steps is greater than one Easy Step block, abutt the blocks side by side first. Use a spirit level or string line to ensure the back face of the blocks are aligned.

Continue laying the first course of blocks by abutting the next block against the first block. Use a spirit level or string line along the side of the blocks for alignment. (See Diagram E)

Level each block side to side and front to back using your spirit level. Install the agricultural drain behind the rearmost block and surround with gravel, or to the manufacturers specifications. (See Diagram E)

**Tip:** Spend time on making sure the first row of units are level. Otherwise all ensuing



courses and ultimately the entire step configuration will not be level.

#### Diagram E

**Tip:** If more than one column of Easy Step blocks are required, an option is to sweep Pave-lock Sweeping Sand over each course of Easy Step blocks before placing the next course.

### 6. Backfill and compact

Place drainage material (12-20mm sized gravel eg blue metal) to 150mm (15cm) wide behind your first course. Shovel and compact your backfill (existing site soil) behind the drainage material. (See Diagram E)

If the backfill is fine silt or soil, a layer of filter fabric can be used to stop it washing into (and clogging) the drainage material.

Backfill consisting of heavy clays or organic soils are not recommended due to water holding properties.

**Tip:** Do ensure you place drainage material behind the steps and compact the site soil.

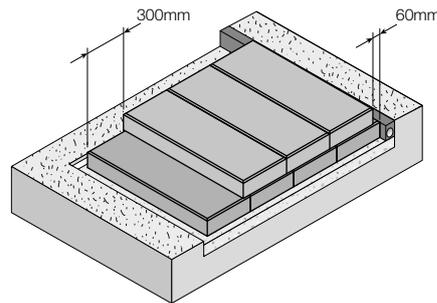
If you don't, water may build up behind your steps and start to push them out of alignment.

### 7. Additional courses

Sweep the top of the previous course clean.

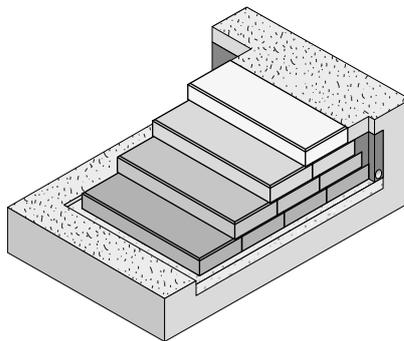
Place the next course of Easy Step blocks with the front vertical face of the new block offset 300mm (30cm) from the block below. This will result in the back of the new block being 60mm (6cm) away from the back face of the block below. (See Diagrams B and F)

#### Diagram F



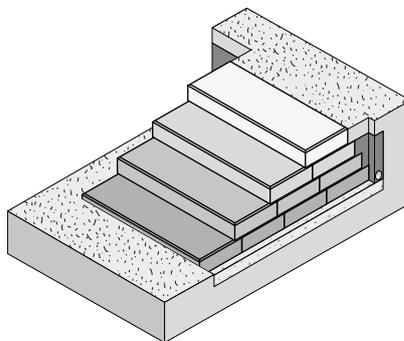
Continue laying the Easy Step blocks, placing drainage material and compacting backfill for each block height (120mm) layer until your steps are complete. (See Diagram G)

#### Diagram G



Once steps are complete, fill in any uneven ground remaining around the edge of the steps. (See Diagram H)

#### Diagram H



#### Block Safety Information

Width	1000mm	(1.0m)
Depth	360mm	(36cm)
Height	120mm	(12cm)

Weight 90kg approx. per block

Block lifters are available for hire.

#### Safety tips

1. Check your equipment.
2. Ensure that you read the operating manuals of all equipment including hired equipment such as plate compactors, cutting equipment and block lifters.
3. Check the condition of hand tools such as hammers etc, to make sure that they are in a safe working order before use.
4. Always operate equipment according to the manufacturer's instructions and wear the appropriate safety clothing listed by the manufacturer.

#### You will need...

- Gloves to protect your hands
- Shovel
- Eye protection eg. goggles
- A spirit level to lay units level
- Drainage material eg. 12-20mm clean, free draining granular material such as gravel or blue metal
- Stakes and string
- Agricultural drain eg. 100mm diameter subsoil pipe)
- Easy Step® blocks
- Coarse sand or road base for the base levelling pad
- Hammer and bolster
- Small broom
- Mechanical plate compactor (optional)

For more information contact 1300 134 002 or visit [www.boral.com.au](http://www.boral.com.au)

Shade variations can occur from batch to batch. Colours shown are indicative only and should not be used for final selection. Not all colours are available in every region for each product. Products ordered should be chosen from actual samples current at the time of order and are subject to availability. Photographs in this brochure are only representative of Boral products and the appearance and effect that may be achieved by their use. Samples brochure and displays should be viewed as a guide only. Customers should ensure all delivered products are acceptable, and any concerns about products are made prior to laying. © Copyright Boral Masonry Limited – all rights reserved 2017. Boral, the Boral logo, boral.com.au, Build something great, are trademarks or registered marks of Boral Limited or Boral Masonry Limited in Australia, other countries, or both. BCC\_15103 September17

