How to Install a Retaining Wall

Thank you for choosing Jacksons Fencing. Our high quality fencing products will last for years and give you trouble-free service if you follow the installation instructions below, which are offered as a general guide.

1) Mark out the proposed line of the wall with stakes and level string. Run the string past the proposed corners and ends so the stakes are clear of the area to be dug out. Check the ground is level by measuring down from the string. If necessary excavate to create a level line.

2) Dig out a level trench to form the base of the wall, with a depth of approximately 3 layers of timber.

3) Lay approx 150mm of gravel or ballast in the trench leaving the surface 2 timber layers below the lower ground level. Compact the gravel to form a firm base.

4) Lay in the bottom row of timbers, checking they are in line and level. Lay a porous membrane (such as weed suppressant) on the bank behind the wall to prevent earth sliding into the channel.

5) For low walls, each layer can be fixed to the layer below using 3 hex-head timber screws per 2.4m length of timber. Ensure each layer overlaps the layer below like “bricklaying”. Screws are available in various lengths. Ensure they can penetrate at least 50mm into the second layer.

6) Taller walls may require hidden vertical timbers behind the wall to tie the levels together (make sure to use suitable ‘post’ materials so they are fully treated for in ground use), with the same screws fixing through the hidden timbers into the back faces of the wall timbers.

7) If the ground behind the wall is less stable, it can also help to install a ‘Deadman’ timber - A horizontal timber facing into the slope, fixed into the line of the wall and with a second timber fixed at its inner end, parallel to the main wall. Please refer to the sketches.

8) At the corners, overlap the ends of the timber as shown in the sketch, to strengthen the corner joints.

9) Install a perforated drainage pipe along the line of the wall, with one end clear to drain away, to prevent water build up behind the wall.

10) As the wall is built up, backfill behind the wall with coarse gravel, ensuring the porous membrane stays in place to prevent blocking of the drainage.

As well as various styles of ‘Landscaping’ and ‘Jakwall’ timber, we have a variety of posts and other timber sections for in ground use. The hex head timber screws are also available in various lengths, 100mm to 250mm, plus the relevant drive bits.

Safety Notes:
Biocidal Products Regulation (EU528/2012):
Jakcured articles incorporate biocidal products to protect against wood destroying organisms.
Active ingredients include: Copper(II)Carbonate / Copper(II)Hydroxide / Propiconazole / Tebuconazole
Wear gloves when handling freshly treated wood. Avoid breathing dust when cutting. Dispose of off-cuts responsibly – do not burn.

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