

HOW TO

BUILD FOUNDATIONS



1. Mark the layout of the wall with stakes and dig a trench for the footings down to firm and level ground. The width should be three times the width of the wall.
2. Drive in the pegs to indicate the top of the footing, using a spirit level to insure they are level. You will use the pegs as a guide when levelling the service of the foundations.
3. Prepare a concrete mix using our ready to use Multi-Purpose Concrete, which requires no pre-mixing only the addition of clean water. Alternatively use a mix consisting of one part Mastercrete, two and a half parts sand and three and a half parts aggregates. (If there is a risk of high sulfate levels in the ground use Sulfacrete).
4. Pour the concrete to the top of the level pegs ensuring that the surface of the footings remains level all round.
5. Compact the concrete with the edge of a plank or tamping beam.
6. Protect the concrete by covering with plastic sheeting, as soon as the concrete is hard enough not to be marked by the sheeting and leave it for up to seven days to fully cure.
7. Prepare a mortar using one part Mastercrete to three or four parts of clean well graded sand.
A good mortar should hang on the trowel and spread easily, it will remain workable long enough for bricks or blocks to be placed easily and adjusted to line and level.
8. Using pegs and string mark out and lay two courses of bricks as a retaining wall. Keep checking that the bricks are level as you work.
9. Leave the bricks over night before you continue.
10. Prepare a new concrete mix and use this mix to pour the base level to the top of the bricks.
11. Ensure that the concrete is spread well into the corners and compacted using the edge of a plank or tamping beam.
12. Use a steel trowel to achieve a smooth concrete finish.



WHAT YOU NEED

MATERIALS

- Multi-Purpose Concrete or
- Mastercrete
- Clean Well Graded Sand
- Aggregates
- Bricks

TOOLS

- Wheel Barrow
- Shovel
- Wooden Pegs
- String
- Wooden Straight Edge
- Cement Mixer (if manually mixing cement)
- Steel Trowel
- Plastic Sheeting
- Spirit Level

TECHNICAL HELPDESK

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ONLINE

Scan the QR code to visit our website at <https://tarmac-bluecircle.co.uk>, packed full of information and video guides for DIYers.

