

ALLAN BLOCK LANDSCAPES

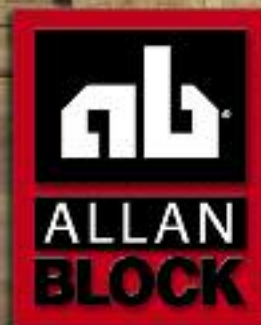
Newsletter for the Landscape Professional

Issue 32



Inside:

- Update Your Front Yard
- Make The Best Choice By Comparison
- Check Out The Retaining Wall Products from Allan Block



allanblock.com



Taking Your Front Yard from Basic to Fabulous

While it's nice to think that people don't really notice or care about it, the reality is that our neighbors pay a lot of attention to the outside of our homes. They can love you to pieces but still wish you'd do something about your sagging steps or overgrown landscaping. The curb appeal of your home affects you, too – just think about every time you leave the house and come home again, do you see a “home” or a list of undone chores and maintenance?

So how do you make your house look more like a home? This is the exact question our homeowners asked themselves when they came to the realization that their rotting timber retaining wall was the eyesore of the neighborhood.



With a front entry like theirs, these homeowners knew that they could not simply replace the failing wall and stairway without putting some thought into it. Having chosen a timber wall during the home building process years ago, they now knew that it was not the best choice. After doing some research and cost comparisons, they

decided building a concrete retaining wall and stairway would not only be visually exciting, but would stand the test of time. They will not have to worry about the expense of replacing their entryway again.

Their landscape contractor designed a series of walls and stairs to provide a seamless transition from the driveway to the front door. They also included some planting areas to soften and accentuate the new walls.

The contractor had Amcon Block of St. Cloud, MN deliver the product to the jobsite and the project was completed in a couple of weeks. Using the entire AB Collection of products, they blended the four different block shapes together to create an AB Ashlar Blend Pattern for a beautiful style that complimented the home. A pair of entry posts were added using the AB Courtyard Collection to give the entryway an inviting path to the front door. The homeowner's house is more than just a “home”, they are now the neighbor's to “keep up with”.



The Retaining Wall Products from Allan Block® - Different

The AB® Collection - The Crisp Clean Lines of Cut Stone



The *AB Collection* is the perfect choice for clean lines and adding the refined look of classic beauty to your landscape. There are five different block shapes to choose from or blend some of them together to create the look you desire in your project.

The AB Europa® Collection - The Aged Time-Worn Feel of Tumbled Stone

The *AB Europa Collection* captures the feel of days gone by with an elegant rustic charm. You can create your own picturesque landscape by using the block shapes individually or by blending the four different block sizes together.



The AB Fieldstone Collection® - The Subtle Texture and Beauty of Natural Stone



Green, Natural and Friendly

The *AB Fieldstone Collection* is an innovative new retaining wall block that is made with recycled materials (*Green*), has the look of natural stone (*Natural*) and is a two-piece system that makes it lighter and easier to install (*Friendly*).



Different Looks for Different Styles



The contemporary feel of the AB Collection is a great choice for any landscape.



The unique texture of the AB Europa Collection creates a stunning look.



The natural beauty and the environmentally friendly appeal of the AB Fieldstone Collection is sure to please.

*Create Your
Own
Captivating
Landscape*



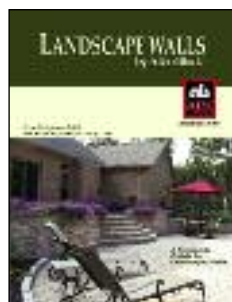
allanblock.com

Use our products for:

- *Retaining walls*
- *Landscape walls*
- *Garden walls*
- *Raised patios*
- *Terraces*
- *Water applications*
- *Stairways*
- *Planters*
- *Borders*
- *Raised gardens*

Check out our website for more design ideas!

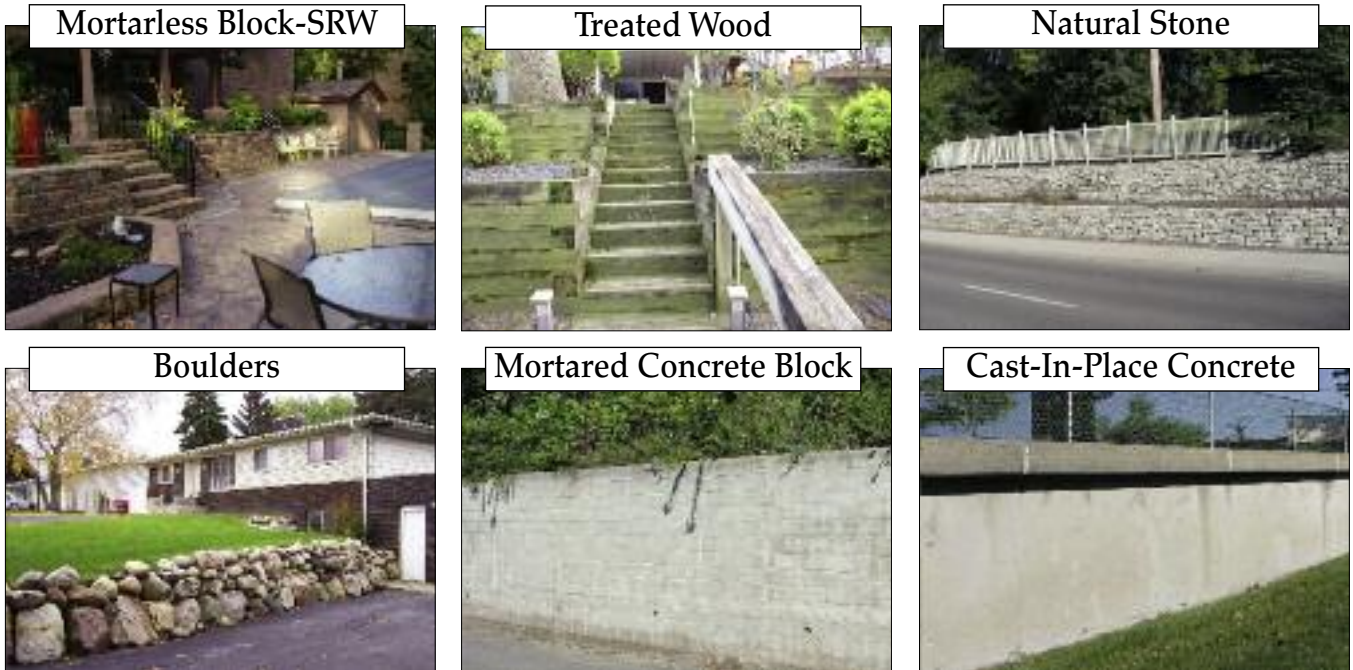
allanblock.com



Using our Installation Guide you can quickly learn how to Plan, Design and Build your own Allan Block project. All our retaining wall products use the same easy to follow steps from base prep to capping.

Make the Best Choice for Your Landscape

There are many different options to choose from when you need a retaining wall. Here is a quick visual comparison of the different types of products to help you make the best choice for your landscaping.



The comparison chart below highlights the features of the different retaining wall systems. Once you have made your choice, contact a properly trained contractor to ensure you receive the best results for your project.

	Allan Block SRW	Treated Wood	Natural Stone	Boulders	Mortared Concrete Block	Cast-In-Place Concrete
Product durability	√	No	√	√	√	√
Unlimited design options	√	No	√	No	No	√
Easy to install	√	√	No	No	No	No
No footing required below frost depth	√	√	√	√	Footing Required	Footing Required
Wall flexibility	√	No	√	√	No	No
Low cost materials	√	√	No	√	No	No
Applications	Residential Commercial	Residential	Residential	Residential Commercial	Residential Commercial	Commercial
Contractor profitability	↑	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Product growth potential	↑	↓	Stable	↓	↓	Stable
Average Costs/Sq. Ft	\$15 - \$25	\$18 - \$25	\$25 - \$40	\$15 - \$30	\$30 - \$40	\$40 - \$70

Don't Forget About AB Courtyard

What is the AB Courtyard Collection®? It is a stackable system that can be used to create two-sided vertical patio walls. It can also be used to build landscape accents like an entry post as in the cover article, create a firepit, pond, outdoor kitchen, benches and much more. It is a very versatile product with unlimited design options.

Another great use of AB Courtyard is to enclose patios to create new outdoor rooms. Use an existing patio or use the Allan Block Retaining Wall products to create a raised patio as shown in the pictures below. By using the same Allan Block products, you can create a finished project with matching colors and styles to create a space that is perfect for entertaining family and friends for years to come.

Check out our website at allanblock.com for all kinds of ideas for building with the products from Allan Block.



Allanblock.com - Everything You Need All In One Place



Allanblock.com has everything you need to plan, design and build your project - including complete installation details, installation videos, estimating tools, featured project profiles, product information and much more.

Visit our photo gallery at allanblock.com to see a vast resource of different projects and ideas for all Allan Block products. When designing your project, make sure to use allanblock.com as your #1 resource!

Did you Know?

Allan Block has gone social - Check us out on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, watch us on YouTube and read our blog at allanblockblog.com for the latest information.



allanblock.com

Sign up at allanblock.com to receive the *Allan Block Landscapes* newsletter by e-mail.

© 2011 Allan Block Corporation, Edina, MN 55439 952-835-5309 - phone 952-835-0013 - fax Ret. Walls US Pat. #5,484,236, #6,792,731, #6,322,742, #6,854,236 Canadian Pat. #2,012,286, #2,133,675 Mexico Pat. #189,846 Europe Pat. #649,714, #99,308,421.9 Australian Pat. #682,394, #133,306 Germany Pat. # 69,423,563.6 Taiwan Pat. #NI-72269 Japan Pat. #3,142,107 AB Courtyard Pat. US Pat. #6,948,282 Canadian Pat. #2,432,660 AB Fieldstone US Pat. #7,775,747, #5,623,797 & #6,948,282 Int'l & other patents pending DOC. #L0331-1211