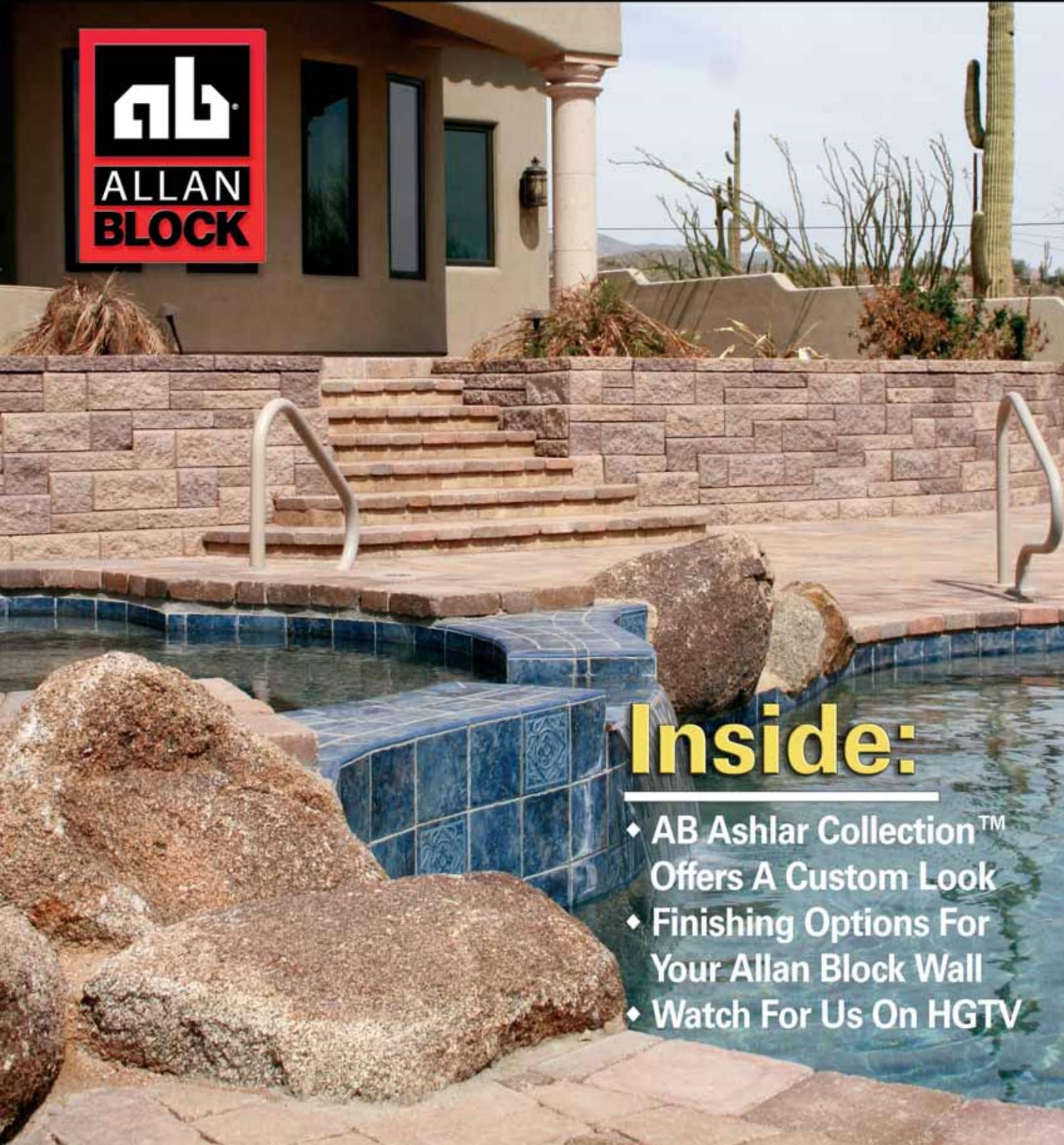


ALLAN BLOCK LANDSCAPES

Newsletter for the Landscape Professionals

Issue 14

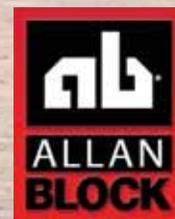


Inside:

- ◆ AB Ashlar Collection™ Offers A Custom Look
- ◆ Finishing Options For Your Allan Block Wall
- ◆ Watch For Us On HGTV

Allan Block - The Natural Choice.

AB Ashlar
Collection



In their Cave Creek Arizona dwelling, homeowners Mr. and Mrs. Paul Stephens met the challenge of landscaping in a harsh, desert climate by drawing from the natural beauties that surrounded their home.



The homeowners wanted to minimize the need for exterior maintenance as much as possible around their magnificent stucco home. They contacted a local contractor for some ideas. Using their suggestions, Brian of Pathways in Scottsdale, AZ created a design that he thought best fit their desires.

He recommended a sprawling circular driveway in the front of the home using pavers that blended beautifully with the color and style of the home. In the back he wanted to create a beautiful backyard living area that included a BBQ station, swimming pool and hot tub all using the same pavers to match the front. There would be elevation changes that would need to be addressed to complete this design. A standard stucco wall, originally specified in the design to match the home's exterior, did not satisfy the Stephens. "We were looking for something with more character and custom feel." Brian recommended Allan Block's product as he had worked with it before and thought it would be the perfect solution.

Jack Ross, Allan Block sales representative for AZ Block, found exactly what they were looking for: The AB Ashlar Collection. He set up a sample wall right on site and discussed with them the advantages of using the Allan Block product. The Stephens were thrilled to find a color that would perfectly complement the pavers they had selected and blended so naturally with their surrounding landscape.



"They loved the look and maintenance aspect of the system compared to a standard stucco wall," Jack said.

"We were looking for something with more character and custom feel."

- Mr. and Mrs. Stephens - homeowners

From selecting to installing, the Stephens have been completely satisfied with their Allan Block experience. Working with both a knowledgeable sales representative and a certified contractor made them feel comfortable throughout the entire project. And the result is stunning: retaining walls that seem to have been built right from the stones of the Arizona desert.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen agree, "We love it!"

Finish your wall with style using mulch, plants

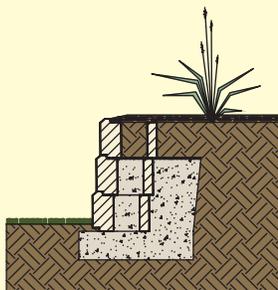


AB Ashlar Collection

Finishing Options

Allan Block offers several options to finish the wall. The raised front-lip provides a perfect built-in edging for a variety of finishing materials including rock, mulch, or plantings. Allan Block Capstones are also an option that offers a clean professional finished look.

- Use mulch or landscape rock to finish right up to the front lip on the block for a natural look that saves time and cost on the finished project.
- Plant right up to the front of the block by filling the top course of blocks with organic soils and your favorite planting materials to blend the wall right into your landscape.
- Incorporate planting materials behind the wall that will grow and expand over the wall for an attractive effect.



Finish your wall with plantings or mulch in place of caps.

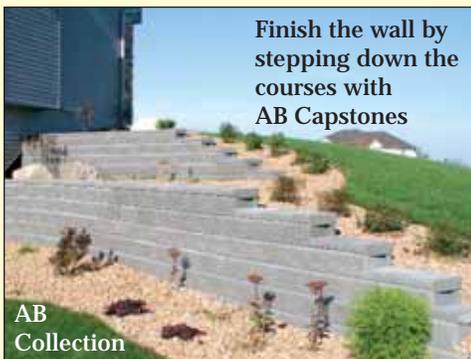


AB Europa Collection

Finishing the project with materials like mulch, rock and plantings give the project a softer finished look, but is also cost effective and a time saver on installation.



AB Collection



Finish the wall by stepping down the courses with AB Capstones

AB Collection

There are also several different options for ending and stepping down walls. Visit allanblock.com to find the look you want, and installation information.



AB Ashlar Collection

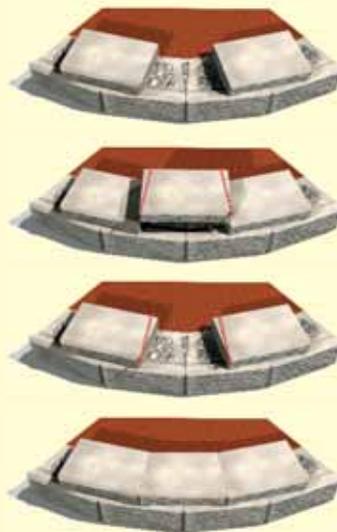
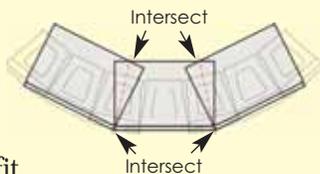
Installings or Allan Block®



Capping a curved wall or a corner takes a bit of cutting and fitting, but produces a beautiful finish. Be sure to wear appropriate safety gear, including protective eye wear, dust mask, and hearing protection when cutting, and operate power saws carefully.

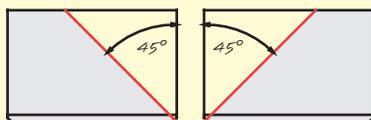
Capping Curves

- Place two caps on top of the wall spaced so a third cap will fit tightly between their widest point.
- Set another cap on top of the first two caps and draw a line from where the caps intersect at the front and back. Using a hand held masonry saw cut along the mark through the cap and deep enough to mark the lower cap.
- Remove the middle cap and finish making the cuts along the marks.
- Set the middle cap back in place so the three fit tightly together.



Capping Corners

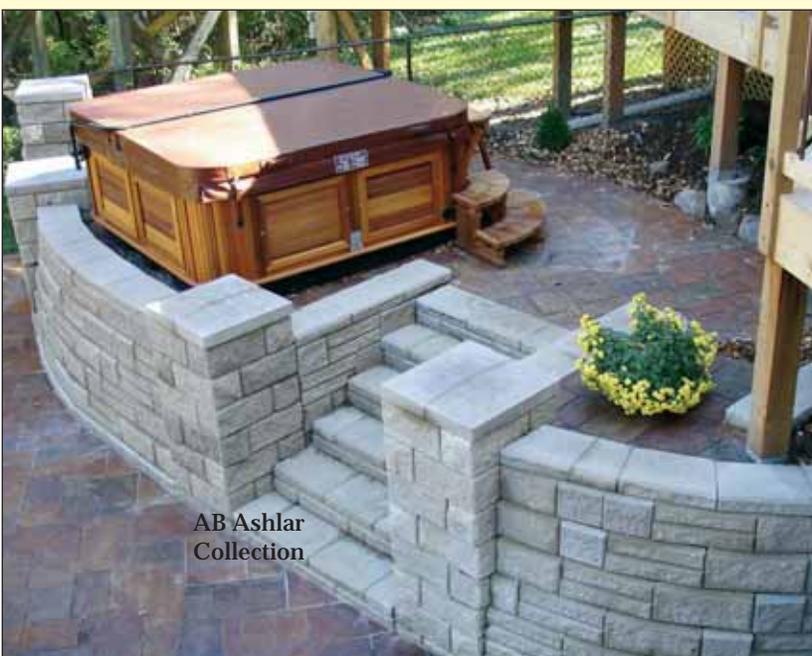
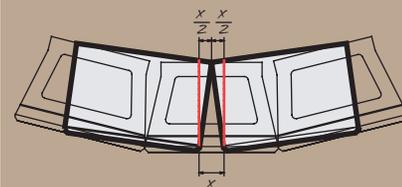
- Cut caps at 45° angles to complete the outside corner.



It's a good idea to secure caps with a high strength construction adhesive. We recommend using a flexible concrete adhesive/sealant that will allow the caps to flex during freeze/thaw cycles.

Tighter Curves

- Place two caps on the wall with the back of each cap tight together. A gap will appear in the front.
- Measure the distance of the gap between the 2 caps (x) at the front of the wall.
- Measure out this distance (x/2) on the back of each of the cap and mark.
- Draw a line from the mark to the front corner.
- Use a masonry saw to cut each cap.



Watch for us on HGTV



Watch for the Allan Block commercials on HGTV.

Allan Block is currently running 2 minute commercials on HGTV promoting 4 easy weekend projects. Watch for these spots to show how to build:



- An In-Ground Pond - using the AB Courtyard Collection™
- An BBQ Grilling Area - using the AB Courtyard Collection™
- A Patio Surround - using the AB Courtyard Collection™
- A Landscape Wall - using the AB Europa® Collection



These ads will run during the best shows like Curb Appeal, Landscape Smart and Landscaper's Challenge just to name a few.

Available on allanblock.com you can find extended versions of these spots showing the entire process from start to finish. You can also download detailed instructions including material lists.

Allanblock.com - A Great Resource



Available at your fingertips is a great reference tool for any and all the information you need to build quality retaining walls. From small garden sized walls to medium landscape walls up to large engineered structures, allanblock.com has it all.

You can navigate easily through our vast array of materials using our customer groups:

- Homeowner
- Residential Contractor
- Commercial Contractor
- Engineers, Architects, and Building Officials

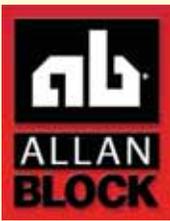


Some of the information you can find on our site:

- Product information for our AB retaining wall system, AB Courtyard Collection and also our AB Fence system
- Detailed installation instructions for all products including How-To videos
- Estimating tools that create a detailed material list
- Extensive photo library
- AB Contractor Training, Certification Programs and AB Rewards Program
- Specifications and design details



Visit allanblock.com today to learn how to plan, design and build your next project.



Resources and Rewards for Landscape Professionals

AB Contractor Certification Rewards

The AB Rewards Program recognizes AB Certified Installers for their commitment to building top-quality Allan Block walls. It is easy and the rewards get bigger at each level.



By achieving the first level in the AB Rewards program **you can receive this durable contractor bag for FREE.** Ask your local AB Representative or visit allanblock.com for more details on how to get this great gift for building with Allan Block.

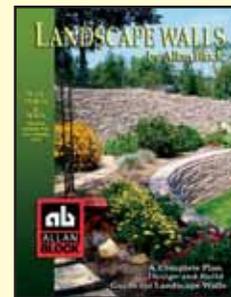


Learn How To Install Allan Block Landscape Walls

Get all the answers with our new **LANDSCAPE WALLS GUIDE** and **HOW TO INSTALL DVD**. They contain all the information a landscape contractor or a DIY homeowner needs to plan, design and build professional-quality landscape walls up to 6 feet high (1.8 m).

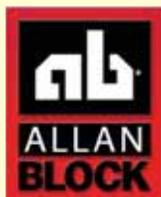
Includes:

- Basic construction techniques for both gravity and reinforced landscape walls. Detailed information on how to build curves, stairs, step-ups and much more.
- Tips for avoiding problems commonly found in residential landscape wall construction.



Estimating and Ordering are a Snap!

Estimating materials couldn't be easier. Allan Block offers both an estimating software program (free download on allanblock.com) and a laminated calculator wheel for quickly estimating all the materials needed to build a landscape wall or AB Courtyard Collection projects. Visit our web site at allanblock.com or check with your local AB professional for more information.



To receive this *Landscape Lifestyles* newsletter by e-mail, sign up at allanblock.com.