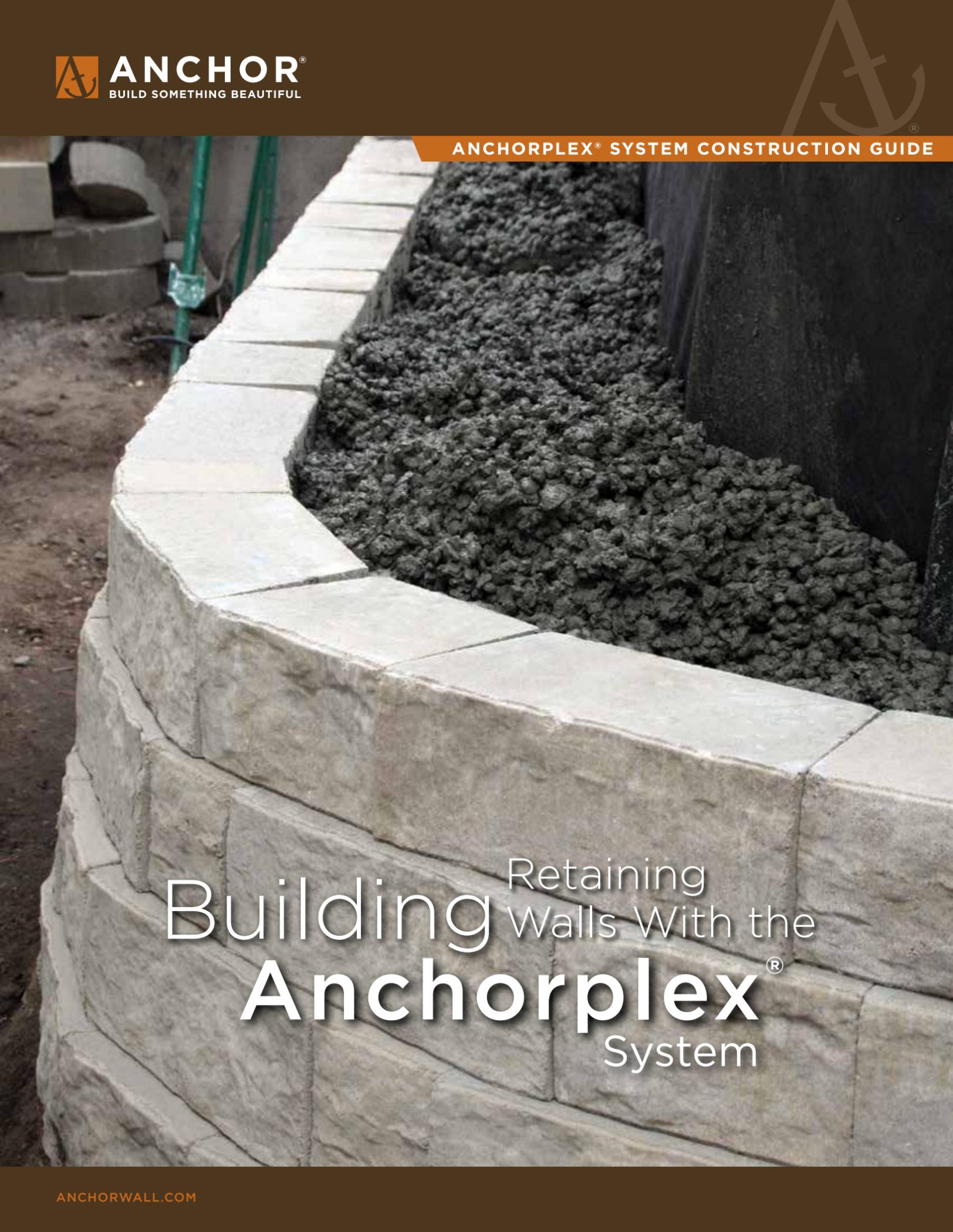




**ANCHOR**<sup>®</sup>  
BUILD SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL

**ANCHORPLEX**<sup>®</sup> SYSTEM CONSTRUCTION GUIDE



Retaining  
Walls With the  
**Anchorplex**<sup>®</sup>  
System

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## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Use this *Construction Guide* to gain a general understanding of the basics of building Anchorplex® system.

Do not use this *Construction Guide* in lieu of construction drawings provided by a qualified engineer.

Contact Anchor Wall Systems at 1-877-295-5415 for more information about designing and building Anchorplex retaining wall systems.

## ABOUT THE ANCHORPLEX™ SYSTEM

The Anchorplex system is a retaining wall built with Anchor™ products and self-compacting structural backfill that meets Anchor Wall Systems, Inc.'s specifications, and that is backed by engineering support tools developed by Anchor Wall Systems. Structural backfill, also known as “no-fines” concrete, is a widely available, easily workable, highly porous mixture of clean stone, cement and water. In the mid-1990s, Anchor's licensee in Australia, Pioneer Building Products Ltd., developed a system of building retaining walls up to about 5 meters (about 15 feet) high from Anchor retaining wall blocks reinforced with a zone of structural backfill placed immediately behind the block facing.

When used in combination with blocks of the appropriate shape, the structural backfill attaches itself to the wall facing, effectively extending the depth and mass of the facing. In addition, the structural backfill zone also serves as the required drainage zone.

The Anchorplex construction method completely eliminates the need for the construction of a mechanically stabilized earth zone behind the wall facing and requires substantially less excavation and compaction than is usually necessary in a grid-reinforced wall construction project.

Because of these efficiencies and the design flexibility afforded with Anchorplex construction, millions of square feet of Anchorplex retaining walls have been installed and are performing well in Australia. Anchor Wall Systems is now introducing this construction method in North America and other parts of the world.

## APPLICATIONS

### Retaining Walls

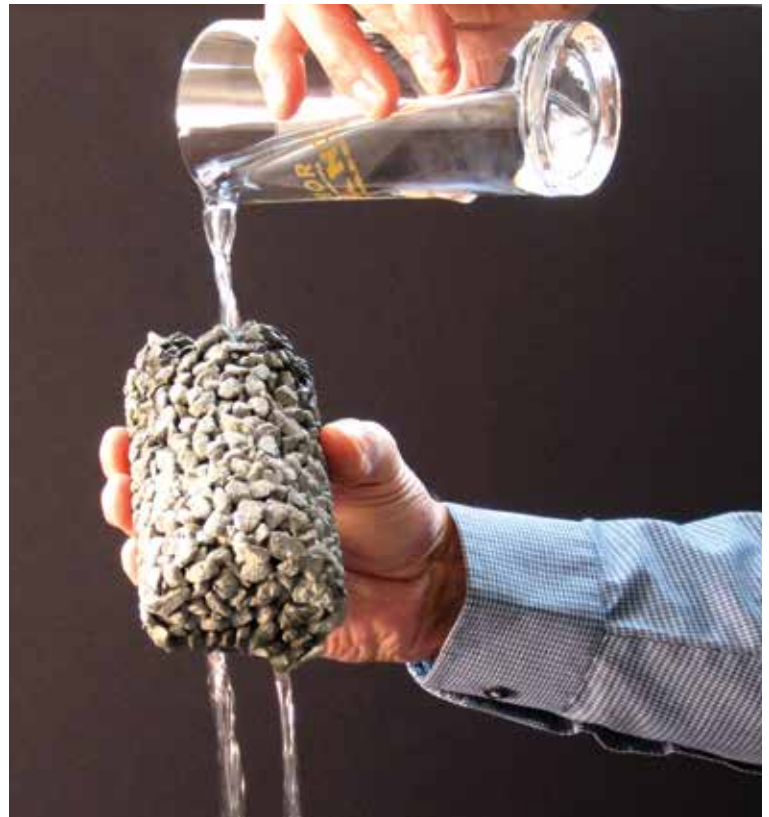
Anchorplex construction is often a more cost-effective solution than building with geogrid reinforcement.

### Limited Room to Excavate

It is often possible to build an Anchorplex wall in situations where traditional geogrid reinforcement is not an option because of lot lines, rock outcroppings or other obstructions that limit the amount of excavation that can be done.

### Competing with Machine-Placed “Big Blocks”

For wall heights less than 11 feet, Anchorplex walls are almost always more economical than machine-placed “big block” walls – and are always better-looking structures.



The structural backfill that meets Anchor Wall Systems, Inc.'s specifications allows water to drain behind the wall.

## ANCHORPLEX® SYSTEM MATERIAL SPECIFICATIONS

### Structural Backfill Component

This component is made by mixing cementitious material, coarse aggregate and water. The cementitious material should be hydraulic cement (ASTM C 150 or C 1157), fly ash (ASTM C 618) or slag (ASTM C 989). The stone should be coarse aggregate, size number 6, 8 or 57, type 3S (ASTM C 33). Stone size selection should be based on the application. Generally, a block with a large core or one with large voids between it and adjacent blocks can more easily accept a mix design with larger aggregates. The water should be potable. The mixing ratios (by weight) of aggregate to cementitious material should be between 4:5 and 6:2. The mixing ratio (by weight) of water to cementitious material should be no more than 0.3 – 0.5. The resulting material, upon curing, should have at least 15 – 25% voids and should exhibit a minimum in place unit weight of 112 lbs./ft<sup>3</sup>.

### Facing-Block Component

The following Anchor™ retaining wall products can be used to build Anchorplex® system:

- Artisana® products
- Brisa® products
- Diamond Pro Stone Cut® products
- Diamond Pro® products
- Highland Stone® products
- Diamond Stone Cut® products
- Diamond® products
- Matiz™ products
- Vertica® products

## ANCHORPLEX SYSTEM MATERIAL QUANTITY ESTIMATING

Estimate the quantity of block needed on an Anchorplex job by conventional methods. Conventional block quantity estimating tools are available at [www.anchorwall.com](http://www.anchorwall.com).

Estimate the quantity of Anchor-specified structural backfill material needed on an Anchorplex job using the Anchorplex Estimating Chart for Structural Backfill for the particular Anchor wall block system that you are using on the job. Each Anchorplex Estimating Chart for Structural Backfill is based upon Anchor's proprietary design methodology and is available for downloading at [www.anchorwall.com](http://www.anchorwall.com).

The Anchorplex Estimating Charts for Structural Backfill for the Artisana wall system are included in this *Construction Guide* for illustrative purposes.



Too little water



Proper amount of water



Too much water

## 1. SETTING OUT THE WALL AND EXCAVATION

This step is no different for Anchorplex® system construction than for conventional construction, except that the amount of excavation will probably differ. Verify wall layout and wall location with the client and other appropriate parties. Survey grade stakes with distance to wall face, elevation for bottom of wall and steps in the foundation should be marked.

Mark the location of the excavation trench so that, when dug, it is wide enough to accommodate the wall block and leveling pad and complies with drawings and specifications. See Excavation Detail on page 6.

A geotechnical engineer should evaluate the foundation soil to verify that there is adequate bearing capacity for support of the structure before placing aggregate in the trench.

Firmly compact the soil in the base of the trench, using either a vibrating plate compactor or small vibrating trench roller before installing the leveling pad base aggregate.

## 2. LEVELING PAD

This step is no different for Anchorplex system construction than for conventional construction. Build the leveling pad from granular stone base material or  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch angular aggregate.

The pad must be a minimum of 6 inches deep after compaction. An additional distance of at least 6 inches in front of and behind the wall block must be included in the leveling pad. See Excavation Detail on page 6.

Fully compact the leveling pad using a vibrating plate compactor. Make sure the base material is level front to back and side to side.



## 3. BASE COURSE

This step is no different for Anchorplex construction than for conventional construction. It is the most important step in the construction process. Starting at the lowest point, lay the first block, checking level both front to back and side to side.

Place additional blocks side by side, flush against each other at the face, making sure the blocks are in full contact with the leveling pad.

Use a string line along back of blocks to align the wall units. Use a 4- to 6-foot level along the top of foundation blocks to check the level side to side and use a shorter level to check the level from front to back.

## 4. CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL COURSES

This step is no different for Anchorplex system construction than for conventional construction. Clean any debris off the top of blocks. Place the second course of blocks on top of the base course. Maintain running bond by placing units in a staggered pattern, running bond, to the course beneath. Pull each unit forward until the shear device is securely in contact with the units below. Use string line on each course to align the blocks along the wall. Do not exceed 2 feet vertical stacking of block before placing a lift of structural backfill.



## 5. DRAINAGE DESIGN

This step is no different for Anchorplex® system construction than for conventional construction. The ground levels on a site will determine at what level to install the perforated drainpipe, but generally the drainpipe is positioned as low as possible

behind the wall so water drains down, out and away from the wall into a storm drain or to an area lower than and away from the wall.

The perforated pipe should be placed approximately 6 inches behind the back of the block. The actual location of the drainpipe should be noted on the engineered shop drawings.



## 6. INSTALLATION OF STRUCTURAL BACKFILL

After completion of the leveling pad, base course, drainpipe installation and stacking block 2 feet above grade, the first lift of structural backfill that meets Anchor Wall Systems, Inc.'s specifications can be installed.

The structural backfill can be placed directly from delivery vehicle or with skid-type loader or other equipment. It should be placed behind the blocks and worked into all voids and cores of the blocks. When properly formulated, the structural backfill material will not leak through the face of the wall.

After installation of the first lift of structural backfill, install additional courses and repeat the process. Place additional lifts from 6 to 24 inches depending on site conditions and project scale. Subsequent pours can be made as soon as the structural backfill in the previous lift has set – usually not longer than 2 to 3 hours.

## 7. CAPPING

Follow standard practice when capping the wall.

## 8. FINISHING

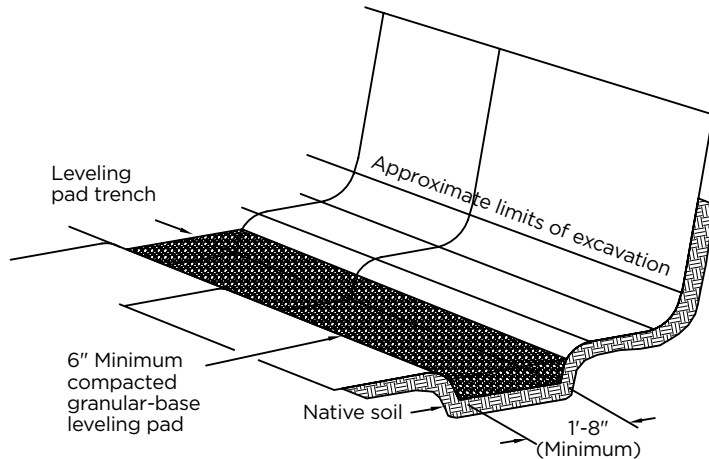
Protect the wall with a finish grade at the top and bottom.



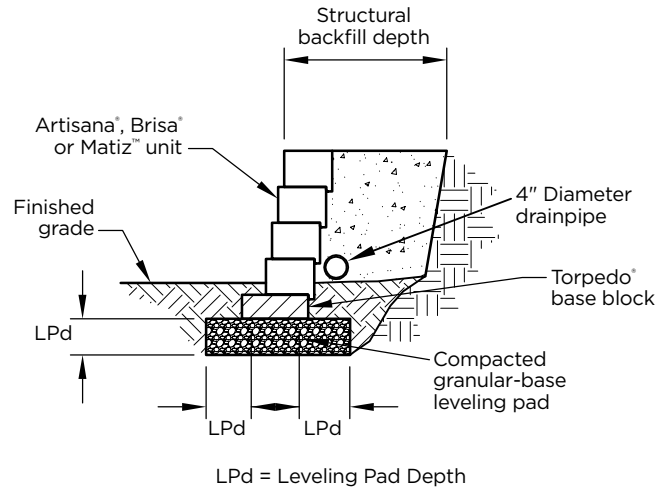
# Construction Details for the Anchorplex® System

Construction Details show the use of Artisana®, Brisa® and Matiz™ products. Details for other Anchor™ products are located at [www.anchorwall.com](http://www.anchorwall.com).

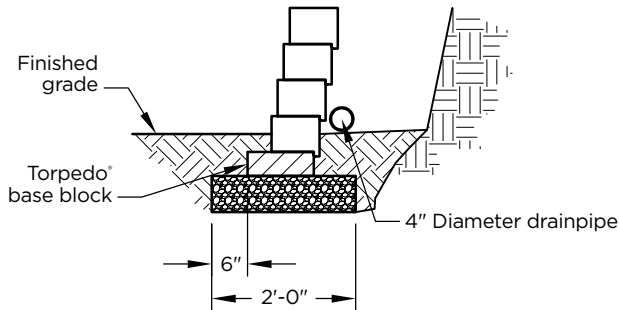
## TYPICAL BASE PREPARATION



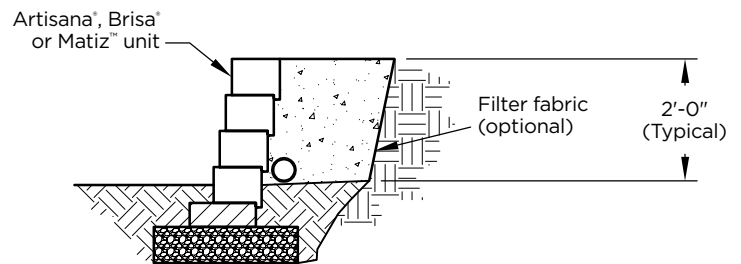
## 1:1 EXCAVATION DETAIL



## READY FOR FIRST POUR

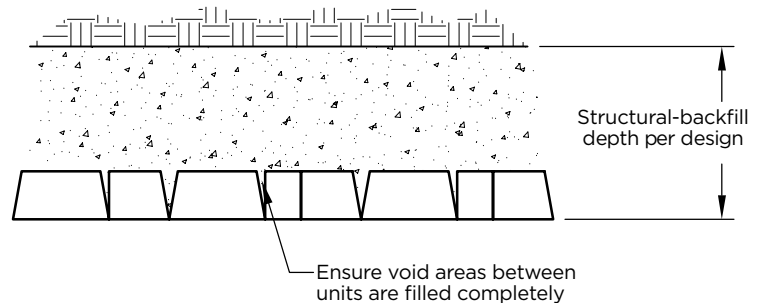


## FIRST POUR



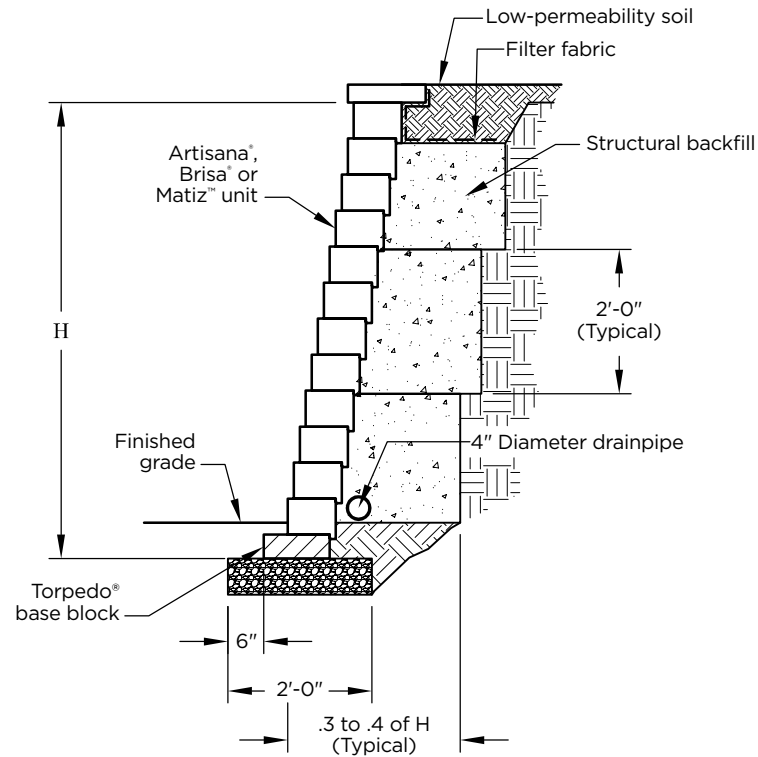
### NOTES:

1. Structural backfill is to be placed in 8- to 24-inch (typical) lifts.
2. Structural backfill must be manipulated into all voids between blocks to ensure adequate bond between block and concrete mass.

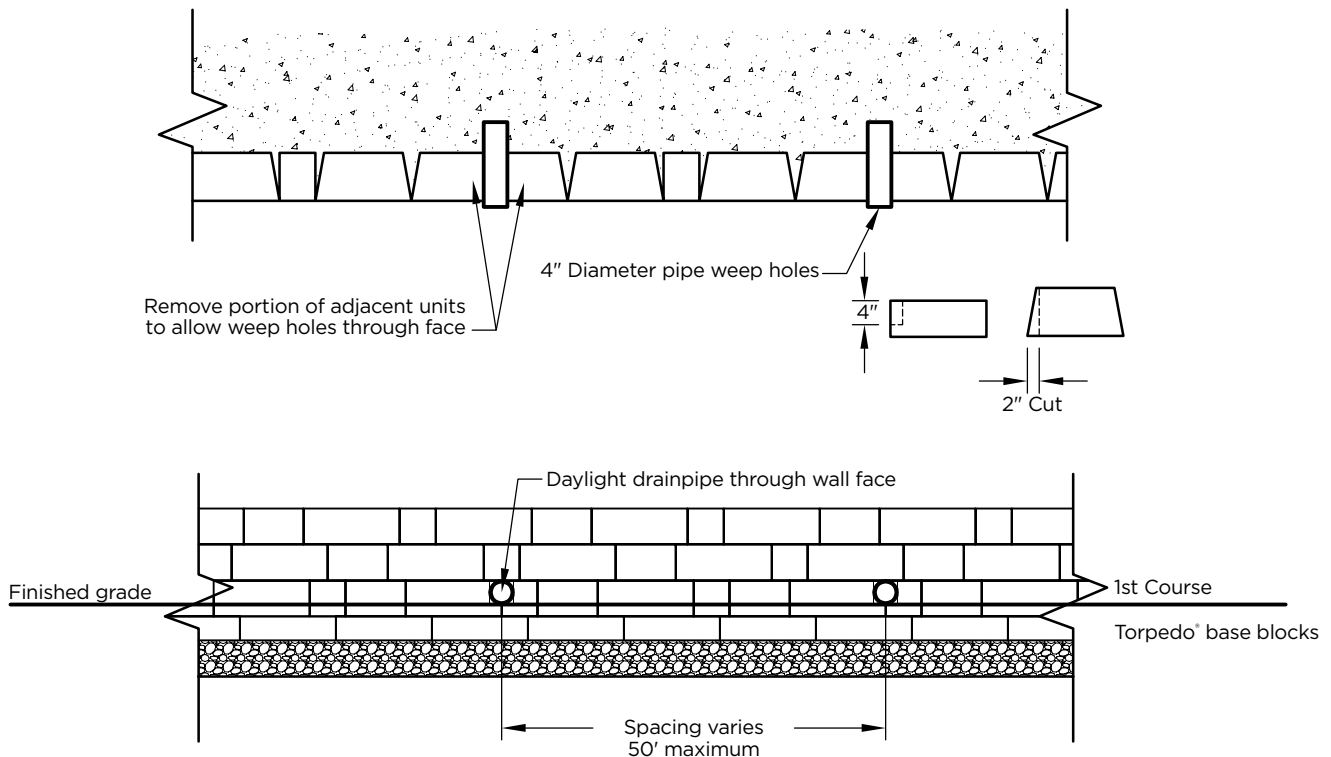


system

## SUBSEQUENT POURS



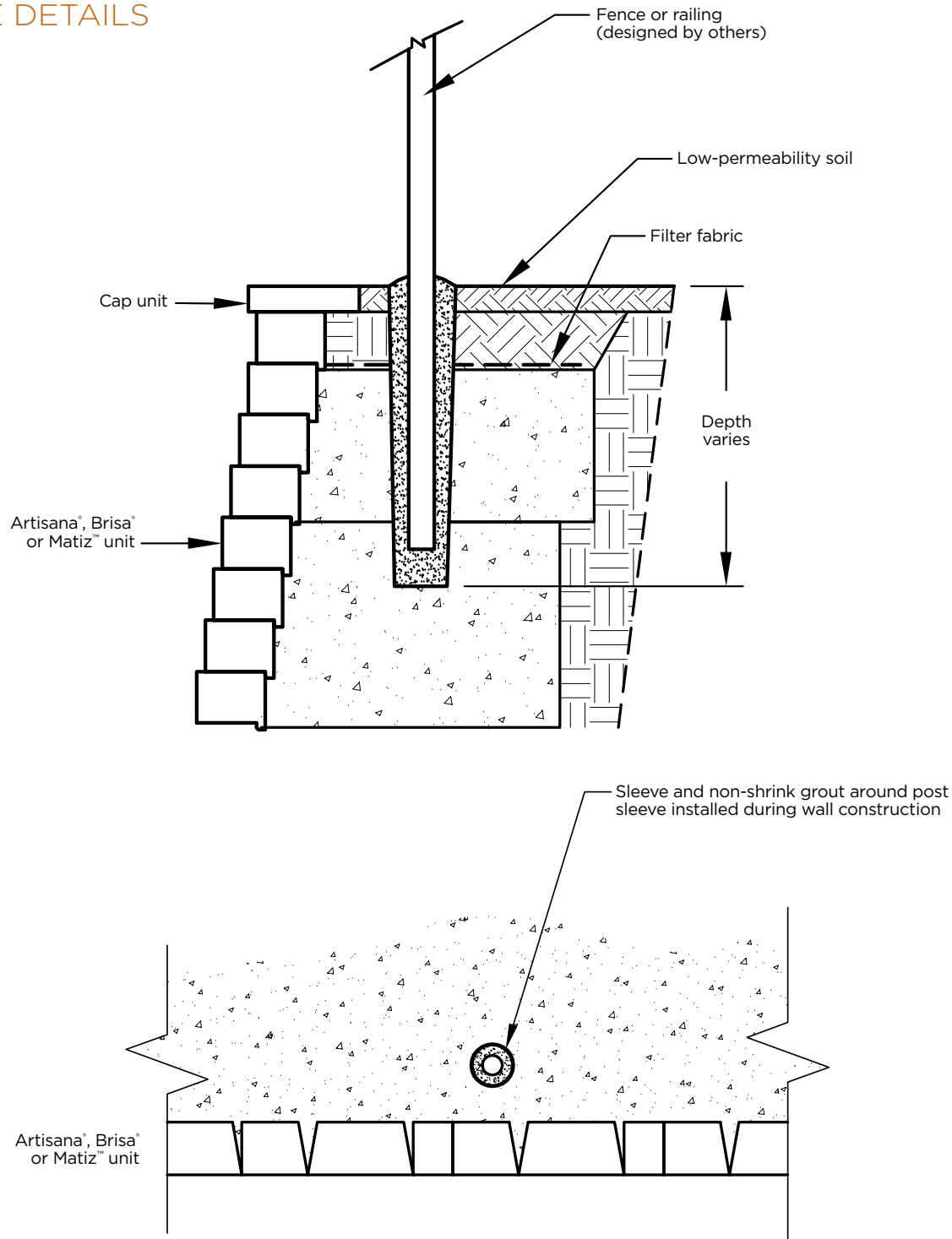
## DAYLIGHT DETAILS



# Construction Details for the Anchorplex® System

Construction Details show the use of Artisana®, Brisa® and Matiz™ products. Details for other Anchor™ products are located at [www.anchorwall.com](http://www.anchorwall.com).

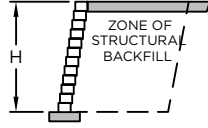
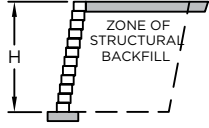
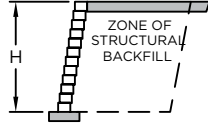

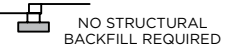

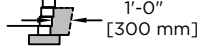
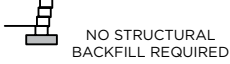

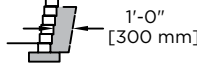
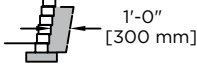

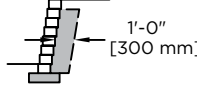
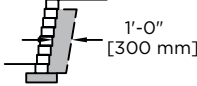
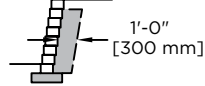
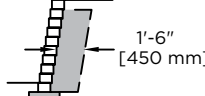
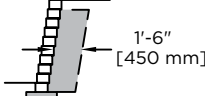
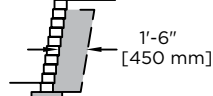
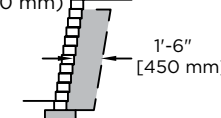
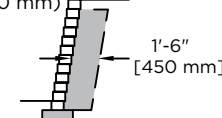
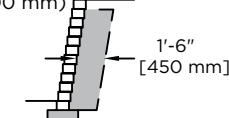
## FENCE DETAILS



# Material Estimating Charts for Structural Backfill

## NO SLOPE OR SURCHARGE

Construction Details show the use of Artisana®, Brisa® and Matiz™ products.  
Details for other Anchor™ products are located at [www.anchorwall.com](http://www.anchorwall.com).

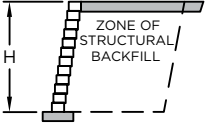
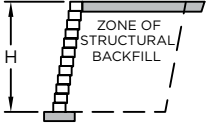
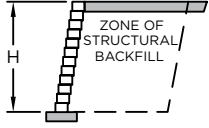



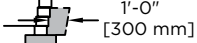


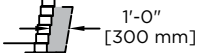
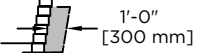
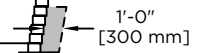
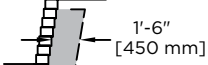
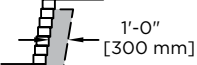
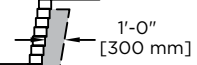
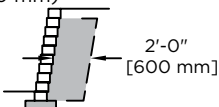
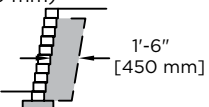
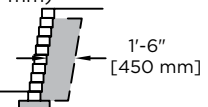
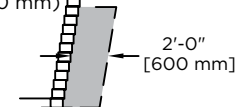
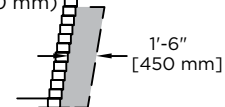
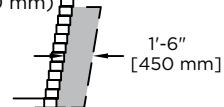
CLAY AND SILT SOIL F = 26° g = 120 pcf (19 kN/m³)	SILTY/CLAYEY SAND SOIL F = 30° g = 120 pcf (19 kN/m³)	CLEAN SAND AND GRAVEL SOIL F = 34° g = 120 pcf (19 kN/m³)
<p>NO SLOPES OR SURCHARGES</p> 	<p>NO SLOPES OR SURCHARGES</p> 	<p>NO SLOPES OR SURCHARGES</p> 
<p>Total Height: 1'-0" (300 mm)</p>  <p>NO STRUCTURAL BACKFILL REQUIRED</p>	<p>Total Height: 1'-0" (300 mm)</p>  <p>NO STRUCTURAL BACKFILL REQUIRED</p>	<p>Total Height: 1'-0" (300 mm)</p>  <p>NO STRUCTURAL BACKFILL REQUIRED</p>
<p>Total Height: 2'-0" (600 mm)</p>  <p>0.08 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>	<p>Total Height: 2'-0" (600 mm)</p>  <p>NO STRUCTURAL BACKFILL REQUIRED</p>	<p>Total Height: 2'-0" (600 mm)</p>  <p>NO STRUCTURAL BACKFILL REQUIRED</p>
<p>Total Height: 3'-0" (900 mm)</p>  <p>0.12 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>	<p>Total Height: 3'-0" (900 mm)</p>  <p>0.12 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>	<p>Total Height: 3'-0" (900 mm)</p>  <p>NO STRUCTURAL BACKFILL REQUIRED</p>
<p>Total Height: 4'-0" (1200 mm)</p>  <p>0.16 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>	<p>Total Height: 4'-0" (1200 mm)</p>  <p>0.16 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>	<p>Total Height: 4'-0" (1200 mm)</p>  <p>0.16 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>
<p>Total Height: 5'-0" (1500 mm)</p>  <p>0.29 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>	<p>Total Height: 5'-0" (1500 mm)</p>  <p>0.29 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>	<p>Total Height: 5'-0" (1500 mm)</p>  <p>0.29 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>
<p>Total Height: 6'-0" (1800 mm)</p>  <p>0.35 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>	<p>Total Height: 6'-0" (1800 mm)</p>  <p>0.35 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>	<p>Total Height: 6'-0" (1800 mm)</p>  <p>0.35 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>

Detail shown is conceptual only and should not be used for construction without the seal of a local qualified engineer.

# Material Estimating Charts for Structural Backfill

## 100 PSF SURCHARGE

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Details for other Anchor™ products are located at [www.anchorwall.com](http://www.anchorwall.com).

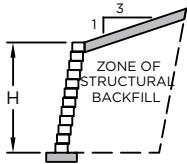
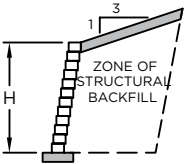
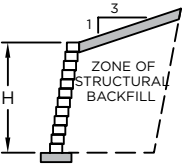



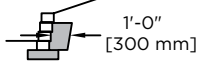


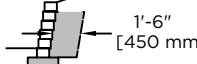
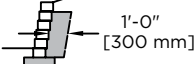
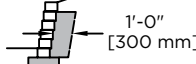

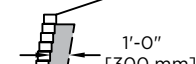
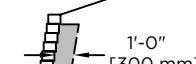






CLAY AND SILT SOIL	SILTY/CLAYEY SAND SOIL	CLEAN SAND AND GRAVEL SOIL
<p>H</p> <p>F = 26° g = 120 pcf (19 kN/m³)</p> <p>100 PSF (5 kPa) SURCHARGE</p> 	<p>H</p> <p>F = 30° g = 120 pcf (19 kN/m³)</p> <p>100 PSF (5 kPa) SURCHARGE</p> 	<p>H</p> <p>F = 34° g = 120 pcf (19 kN/m³)</p> <p>100 PSF (5 kPa) SURCHARGE</p> 
<p>Total Height: 1'-0" (300 mm)</p>  <p>NO STRUCTURAL BACKFILL REQUIRED</p>	<p>Total Height: 1'-0" (300 mm)</p>  <p>NO STRUCTURAL BACKFILL REQUIRED</p>	<p>Total Height: 1'-0" (300 mm)</p>  <p>NO STRUCTURAL BACKFILL REQUIRED</p>
<p>Total Height: 2'-0" (600 mm)</p>  <p>1'-0" [300 mm]</p> <p>0.08 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>	<p>Total Height: 2'-0" (600 mm)</p>  <p>NO STRUCTURAL BACKFILL REQUIRED</p>	<p>Total Height: 2'-0" (600 mm)</p>  <p>NO STRUCTURAL BACKFILL REQUIRED</p>
<p>Total Height: 3'-0" (900 mm)</p>  <p>1'-0" [300 mm]</p> <p>0.12 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>	<p>Total Height: 3'-0" (900 mm)</p>  <p>1'-0" [300 mm]</p> <p>0.12 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>	<p>Total Height: 3'-0" (900 mm)</p>  <p>1'-0" [300 mm]</p> <p>0.12 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>
<p>Total Height: 4'-0" (1200 mm)</p>  <p>1'-6" [450 mm]</p> <p>0.24 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>	<p>Total Height: 4'-0" (1200 mm)</p>  <p>1'-0" [300 mm]</p> <p>0.16 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>	<p>Total Height: 4'-0" (1200 mm)</p>  <p>1'-0" [300 mm]</p> <p>0.16 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>
<p>Total Height: 5'-0" (1500 mm)</p>  <p>2'-0" [600 mm]</p> <p>0.39 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>	<p>Total Height: 5'-0" (1500 mm)</p>  <p>1'-6" [450 mm]</p> <p>0.29 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>	<p>Total Height: 5'-0" (1500 mm)</p>  <p>1'-6" [450 mm]</p> <p>0.29 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>
<p>Total Height: 6'-0" (1800 mm)</p>  <p>2'-0" [600 mm]</p> <p>0.46 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>	<p>Total Height: 6'-0" (1800 mm)</p>  <p>1'-6" [450 mm]</p> <p>0.35 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>	<p>Total Height: 6'-0" (1800 mm)</p>  <p>1'-6" [450 mm]</p> <p>0.35 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>

Detail shown is conceptual only and should not be used for construction without the seal of a local qualified engineer.

# Material Estimating Charts for Structural Backfill

## 3:1 CREST SLOPE

Construction Details show the use of Artisana®, Brisa® and Matiz™ products. Details for other Anchor™ products are located at [www.anchorwall.com](http://www.anchorwall.com).

CLAY AND SILT SOIL F = 26° g = 120 pcf (19 kN/m³)	SILTY/CLAYEY SAND SOIL F = 30° g = 120 pcf (19 kN/m³)	CLEAN SAND AND GRAVEL SOIL F = 34° g = 120 pcf (19 kN/m³)
 <p>Diagram showing a wall with a 3:1 crest slope. The zone of structural backfill is indicated by a dashed line.</p>	 <p>Diagram showing a wall with a 3:1 crest slope. The zone of structural backfill is indicated by a dashed line.</p>	 <p>Diagram showing a wall with a 3:1 crest slope. The zone of structural backfill is indicated by a dashed line.</p>
<p>Total Height: 1'-0" (300 mm)</p>  <p>NO STRUCTURAL BACKFILL REQUIRED</p>	<p>Total Height: 1'-0" (300 mm)</p>  <p>NO STRUCTURAL BACKFILL REQUIRED</p>	<p>Total Height: 1'-0" (300 mm)</p>  <p>NO STRUCTURAL BACKFILL REQUIRED</p>
<p>Total Height: 2'-0" (600 mm)</p>  <p>1'-0" [300 mm]</p> <p>0.08 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>	<p>Total Height: 2'-0" (600 mm)</p>  <p>NO STRUCTURAL BACKFILL REQUIRED</p>	<p>Total Height: 2'-0" (600 mm)</p>  <p>NO STRUCTURAL BACKFILL REQUIRED</p>
<p>Total Height: 3'-0" (900 mm)</p>  <p>1'-6" [450 mm]</p> <p>0.18 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>	<p>Total Height: 3'-0" (900 mm)</p>  <p>1'-0" [300 mm]</p> <p>0.12 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>	<p>Total Height: 3'-0" (900 mm)</p>  <p>1'-0" [300 mm]</p> <p>0.12 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>
<p>Total Height: 4'-0" (1200 mm)</p>  <p>2'-0" [600 mm]</p> <p>0.31 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>	<p>Total Height: 4'-0" (1200 mm)</p>  <p>1'-0" [300 mm]</p> <p>0.16 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>	<p>Total Height: 4'-0" (1200 mm)</p>  <p>1'-0" [300 mm]</p> <p>0.16 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>
<p>Total Height: 5'-0" (1500 mm)</p>  <p>2'-6" [750 mm]</p> <p>0.48 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>	<p>Total Height: 5'-0" (1500 mm)</p>  <p>2'-0" [600 mm]</p> <p>0.39 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>	<p>Total Height: 5'-0" (1500 mm)</p>  <p>1'-6" [450 mm]</p> <p>0.29 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>
<p>Total Height: 6'-0" (1800 mm)</p>  <p>3'-0" [900 mm]</p> <p>0.69 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>	<p>Total Height: 6'-0" (1800 mm)</p>  <p>2'-0" [600 mm]</p> <p>0.46 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>	<p>Total Height: 6'-0" (1800 mm)</p>  <p>1'-6" [450 mm]</p> <p>0.35 x Wall Length = CY of Structural Backfill</p>

Detail shown is conceptual only and should not be used for construction without the seal of a local qualified engineer.

# Anchorplex® System Construction Guide



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