

# KEYSTONE<sup>®</sup> COMPAC III

## Standardized Manual for Engineered Retaining Walls up to 6 feet

SOILS REPORT REQUIRED.

PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR LOCAL BUILDING  
DEPARTMENT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
ON BUILDING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS.



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DESIGNED EXCLUSIVELY FOR USE WITH KEYSTONE COMPAC III UNITS MGF. BY RCP BLOCK & BRICK  
AND MIRAGRID 2XT GEOGRIDS MANUFACTURED BY TENCATE

# KEYSTONE COMPAC III STANDARDIZED MANUAL

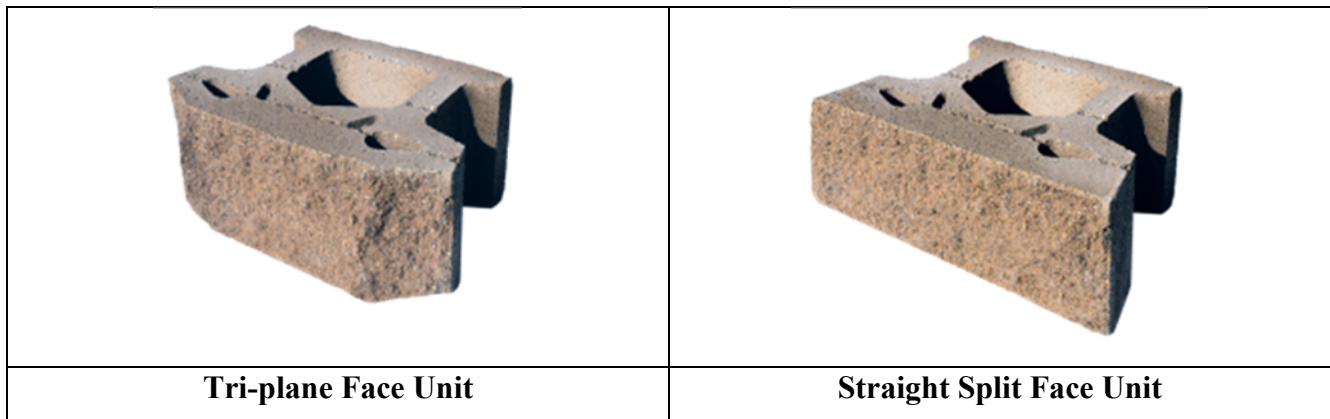
## INTRODUCTION

This manual is specifically written, and all material contained within, for the Keystone Retaining Wall System. Each Keystone retaining wall unit has different strength, weight, and size considerations which requires an individual analysis. Geogrid soil reinforcement has performance properties which are unique to the polymer type and material designation also requiring individual analysis. Different Keystone retaining wall unit and geogrid combinations have unique design properties that require special analysis.

The purpose of Standardized Manual is to provide working parameters for the design and construction of small Keystone retaining walls in accordance with current standard of practice. Larger or more complex walls typically require site specific engineering analysis. Permitting may be required for any retaining wall of any height so please check local requirements before proceeding with construction.

This Standardized Manual provides pre-engineered design for construction of segmental block retaining walls (SRW) up to 6 feet high using 8-inch (203mm) high Keystone Compac III units. The designs provided are for walls no greater than 6' in total height with specific backfill and surcharge conditions. The design is consistent with the National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA) "Design Manual for Segmental Retaining Walls, Third Edition."

## COMPAC III BLOCK DETAILS



Piece	Height	Width	Depth	Core Dimension	Weight	Pcs/sq ft	Available Colors
Tri-plane	8"	18"	12"	5.6"x7.25"	67-72 lbs	1	Tan, Natural
Straight Split	8"	18"	12"	5.6"x7.25"	71-76 lbs	1	Tan, Natural

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## APPLICABILITY

This manual is applicable for retaining walls with total height of 6 feet or less, including a 6” deep embedment below grade. The wall has either level backfill or sloping backfill with no greater than a 26.6-degree slope or traffic load of 250 pounds per square foot. The soils at the site classify as sand, silty sand, clayey sand, silty gravel, clayey gravel, or mixtures thereof, and has the internal angle of friction of 30° or greater. Such soils are soil types considered to be California Building Code (CBC) Class 4 type soils.

## BUILDING PERMIT

The user shall consult the local building authority for permit requirements for construction of retaining walls for specific conditions at the site. The user shall use experienced construction contractor or should have experience in construction of these walls and knowledge of soil compaction. The authority may require a report from a licensed soils engineer for soil type and its strength parameters, and for confirming applicability of this guideline.

## DESIGN SUMMARY

The design presented in this guidance meets minimum acceptable factors of safety of 1.5 against sliding failures, and 2.0 against overturning and bearing capacity failures. Wall batter considered is approximately 0-degree batter (almost vertical wall) and approximately 7-degree batter. Geogrid reinforcements are Miragrid 2XT manufactured by Tencate. The tables and plates that follow provide typical wall details and reinforcement schedule for Geosynthetic-Reinforced SRWs up to 6’ in height. The grading around the wall allows positive drainage of surface water away from and around the wall. Hydrostatic pressures are not considered in the design.

# KEYSTONE COMPAC III STANDARDIZED MANUAL

## STEPS FOR DESIGN SELECTION

1. **Determine if Keystone Standard Manual is applicable to your project:** This manual can be used when acceptable to local building officials and when the wall height, surcharge load, and soil type are consistent with those indicated in this manual.
2. **Determine total wall height including proposed embedment:** The total wall height is defined as the exposed height plus embedment depth. The minimum wall embedment required is 6" for level grade at the base of the wall, or depth required to achieve 5' distance to daylight at the base of the wall.
3. **Determine the type of soil that will be retained:** Estimate the soil type based on visual soil classification or soil testing. For more details on soil type at your site, contact a Soils Engineer.
4. **Determine loading condition on the wall:** All cases apply for a near-level soil surface at the toe of the wall.
  - a. Case A depicts a near-level wall backfill with no surcharge load near the wall crest.
  - b. Case B depicts a near-level wall crest with surcharge load applied by traffic, for example, along a driveway or a parking lot at the top of the wall.
  - c. Case C depicts a 2H :1V sloping surcharge (26.6 degrees maximum) above the wall.
5. **Select proper wall design sections from the charts:** Select geogrid reinforcement schedule from Design Tables 1-3, or Plates 2 and 3.
6. **Determine if building permits are required for wall construction:** Building permit requirements for segmental retaining walls are unique to each jurisdiction and can only be determined through direct contact with local building officials. If permits are required, submit this Standard Engineering Manual along with other site drawings, survey plans, literature, etc. that may be required by the building department.
7. **Wall Construction:** Start wall construction only after you confirm that you do not need a permit, or after a permit is obtained. Construct wall per details shown on Plate 1. Consult a Keystone representative or hire a licensed engineer to understand the construction details and methods.

Note: Documentation of soil types by a licensed engineer or testing lab may be required to use Standardized Engineering when obtaining permits. USCS soil classification types are defined by ASTM D2487 & ASTM D2488.

### EXCLUSIONS

Do not use this design guideline, if any of the following applies:

- 1) The user has no knowledge of strength parameters of soils,
- 2) Total wall height is more than 6 feet,
- 3) Back slope is steeper than 2 horizontals to 1 vertical (26.6 degrees),
- 4) Special surcharge loading conditions exist, such as, buildings or other structures, or,
- 5) Groundwater or drainage problems exist at the site.

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## LIMITATIONS

The design presented herein is based on the use of the specified product manufactured under license from RCP Blocks & Bricks and for specific soil conditions. It is the responsibility of the user of this manual to verify the actual site soil conditions, and to construct the wall in accordance with standard construction procedures and manufacturer's recommendations. A qualified geotechnical engineer may be retained to determine the soil type and any other geotechnical condition which may affect the design and stability of the wall and surrounding area, and to provide inspection and testing services during wall construction. The geotechnical engineer or his appointed representative shall observe and verify the installation of segmental blocks, geosynthetic reinforcement, and compaction of fill soils. All fill soils should be compacted to at least 90% of the maximum dry density determined using Modified Proctor Compaction Test per ASTM D1557 Test Standards.

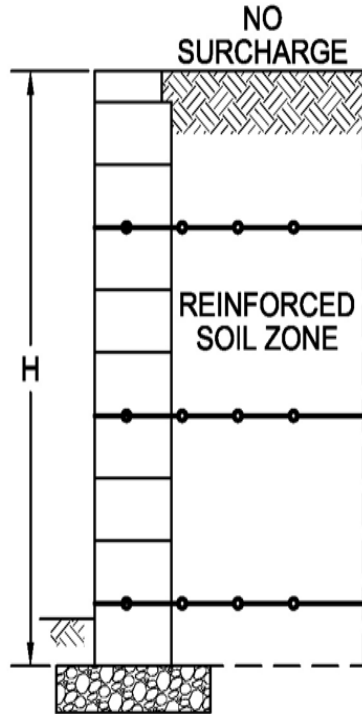
The design of the retaining wall assumes no build-up of hydrostatic pressures within the reinforced fill zone of the wall. Therefore, construction of an effective subdrain system behind the wall is critical to the performance of the wall. Any back-cut drain required shall be determined by the project geotechnical engineer and shall be installed per the direction of the project geotechnical engineer.

The user of this design manual or his representatives agree, to the fullest extent permitted by law, to limit the liability of RCP Blocks & Bricks and ABI Engineering Consultants, Inc. for any and all claims, losses, cost, damages of any nature whatsoever or claims expenses from any cause or causes, so that the total aggregate liability of RCP Blocks & Bricks and ABI Engineering Consultants, Inc shall not exceed \$1,000 or the cost of the wall materials, whichever is less. Such claims and causes include, but are not limited to negligence, professional errors or omissions, strict liability, breach of contract or warranty. The user of this manual or his representatives also agree to fully protect, indemnify, hold harmless and defend RCP Blocks & Bricks and ABI Engineering Consultants, Inc., their principals, officers, employees, and agents from and against any and all loss, cost, damage, injury, liability claims, liens, demands, taxes, penalties, interest or causes of action of every nature whatsoever resulting from the use of this document.

# KEYSTONE COMPAC III STANDARDIZED MANUAL

## DESIGN TABLE 1(A)

**Case A (I) – Level Backfill, No Surcharge – CBC soil type 4 or better ( $\phi = 30^\circ$ )**  
**Wall batter: No Batter (minimum setback per unit)**



Total Wall Height (H)	Numbers of Miragrid 2XT Layers	Grid Length and Position above the base, between the blocks of the wall face (Grid length is measured from the front face of the unit to the back of the geogrid)		
		Grid 1	Grid 2	Grid 3
2'-4"	-	-	-	-
3'-0"	1	(4'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	-	-
3'-8"	2	(4'-0") 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	(4'-0") 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	-
4'-4"	2	(4'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	(4'-0") 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	-
5'-0"	2	(4'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	(5'-0") 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	-
5'-8"	3	(4'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	(4'-0") 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	(5'-0") 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>
6'-4"	3	(5'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	(5'-0") 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	(5'-0") 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>

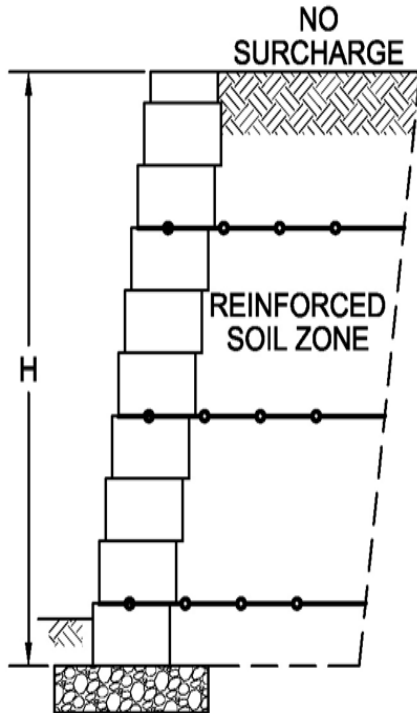
**Note: Minimum Embedment Depth = 0'-6"**

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# KEYSTONE COMPAC III STANDARDIZED MANUAL

## DESIGN TABLE 1(B)

Case A (II) – Level Backfill, No Surcharge – CBC soil type 4 or better ( $\phi = 30^\circ$ )  
 Wall Batter: 7 Degrees (1" setback per unit)



Total Wall Height (H)	Numbers of Miragrid 2XT Layers	Grid Length and Position above the base, between the blocks of the wall face (Grid length is measured from the front face of the unit to the back of the geogrid)		
		Grid 1	Grid 2	Grid 3
2'-4"	-	-	-	-
3'-0"	1	(4'-0") 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	-	-
3'-8"	1	(5'-0") 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	-	-
4'-4"	2	(4'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	(4'-0") 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	-
5'-0"	2	(4'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	(5'-0") 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	-
5'-8"	3	(4'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	(4'-0") 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	(5'-0") 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>
6'-4"	3	(5'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	(5'-0") 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	(5'-0") 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>

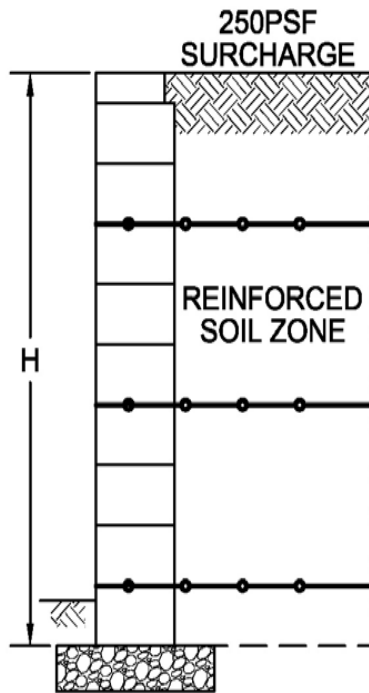
Note: Minimum Embedment Depth = 0'-6"

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# KEYSTONE COMPAC III STANDARDIZED MANUAL

## DESIGN TABLE 2(A)

**Case B (I) – Level Backfill, Uniform Surcharge of 250psf – CBC soil type 4 or better ( $\phi = 30^\circ$ )  
Wall batter: No Batter (minimum setback per unit)**



Total Wall Height (H)	Numbers of Miragrid 2XT Layers	Grid Length and Position above the base, between the blocks of the wall face (Grid length is measured from the front face of the unit to the back of the geogrid)		
		Grid 1	Grid 2	Grid 3
1'-8"	1	(4'-0") 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	-	-
2'-4"	1	(4'-0") 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	-	-
3'-0"	2	(4'-0") 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	(4'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	-
3'-8"	2	(4'-0") 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	(5'-0") 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	-
4'-4"	2	(4'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	(5'-0") 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	-
5'-0"	2	(5'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	(6'-0") 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	-
5'-8"	3	(5'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	(5'-0") 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	(6'-0") 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>
6'-4"	3	(5'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	(5'-0") 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	(6'-0") 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>

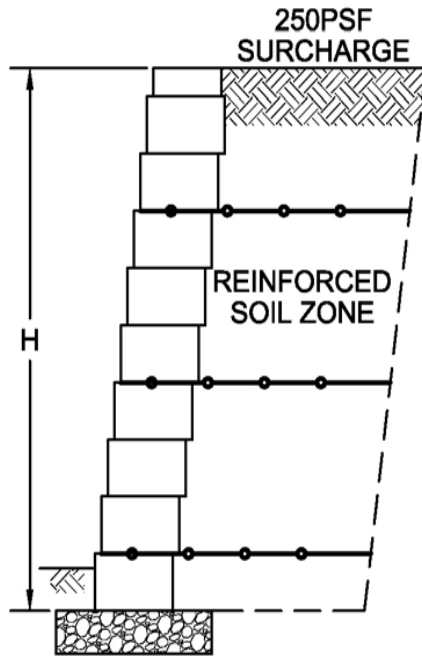
**Note: Minimum Embedment Depth = 0'-6"**

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# KEYSTONE COMPAC III STANDARDIZED MANUAL

## DESIGN TABLE 2(B)

Case B (II) – Level Backfill, Uniform Surcharge of 250psf – CBC soil type 4 or better ( $\phi = 30^\circ$ )  
 Wall Batter: 7 Degrees (1" setback per unit)



Total Wall Height (H)	Numbers of Miragrid 2XT Layers	Grid Length and Position above the base, between the blocks of the wall face (Grid length is measured from the front face of the unit to the back of the geogrid)			
		Grid 1	Grid 2	Grid 3	Grid 4
1'-8"	1	(4'-0") 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	-	-	-
2'-4"	1	(4'-0") 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	-	-	-
3'-0"	2	(4'-0") 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	(4'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	-	-
3'-8"	2	(4'-0") 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	(4'-0") 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	-	-
4'-4"	2	(4'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	(4'-0") 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	-	-
5'-0"	2	(4'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	(5'-0") 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	-	-
5'-8"	3	(5'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	(5'-0") 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	(5'-0") 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>	-
6'-4"	4	(5'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	(5'-0") 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	(5'-0") 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	(5'-0") 8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>

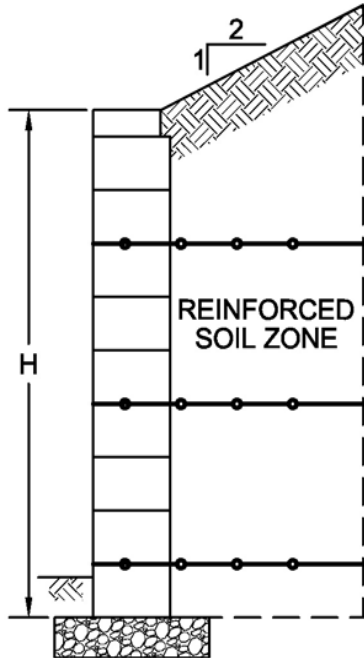
Note: Minimum Embedment Depth = 0'-6"

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## DESIGN TABLE 3(A)

**Case C (I) – 2H: 1V (26.6°) sloped backfill, no surcharge – CBC soil type 4 or better ( $\phi= 30^\circ$ )  
**Wall batter: No Batter (minimum setback per unit)****



Total Wall Height (H)	Numbers of Miragrid 2XT Layers	Grid Length and Position above the base, between the blocks of the wall face (Grid length is measured from the front face of the unit to the back of the geogrid)			
		Grid 1	Grid 2	Grid 3	Grid 4
1'-8"	-	-	-	-	-
2'-4"	1	(4'-0") 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	-	-	-
3'-0"	2	(4'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	(4'-0") 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	-	-
3'-8"	3	(4'-0") 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	(4'-0") 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	(4'-0") 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	-
4'-4"	3	(4'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	(4'-0") 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	(4'-0") 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	-
5'-0"	3	(5'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	(5'-0") 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	(5'-0") 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>	-
5'-8"	4	(5'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	(5'-0") 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	(5'-0") 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>	(5'-0") 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>
6'-4"	4	(6'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	(6'-0") 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	(6'-0") 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	(6'-0") 8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>

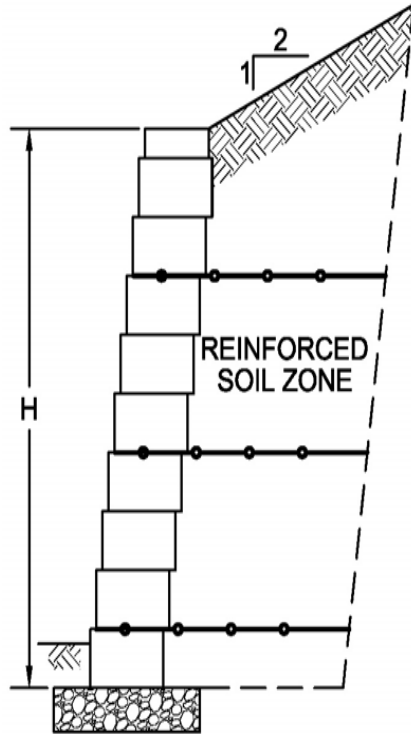
**Note: Minimum Embedment Depth = 0'-6"**

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# KEYSTONE COMPAC III STANDARDIZED MANUAL

## DESIGN TABLE 3(B)

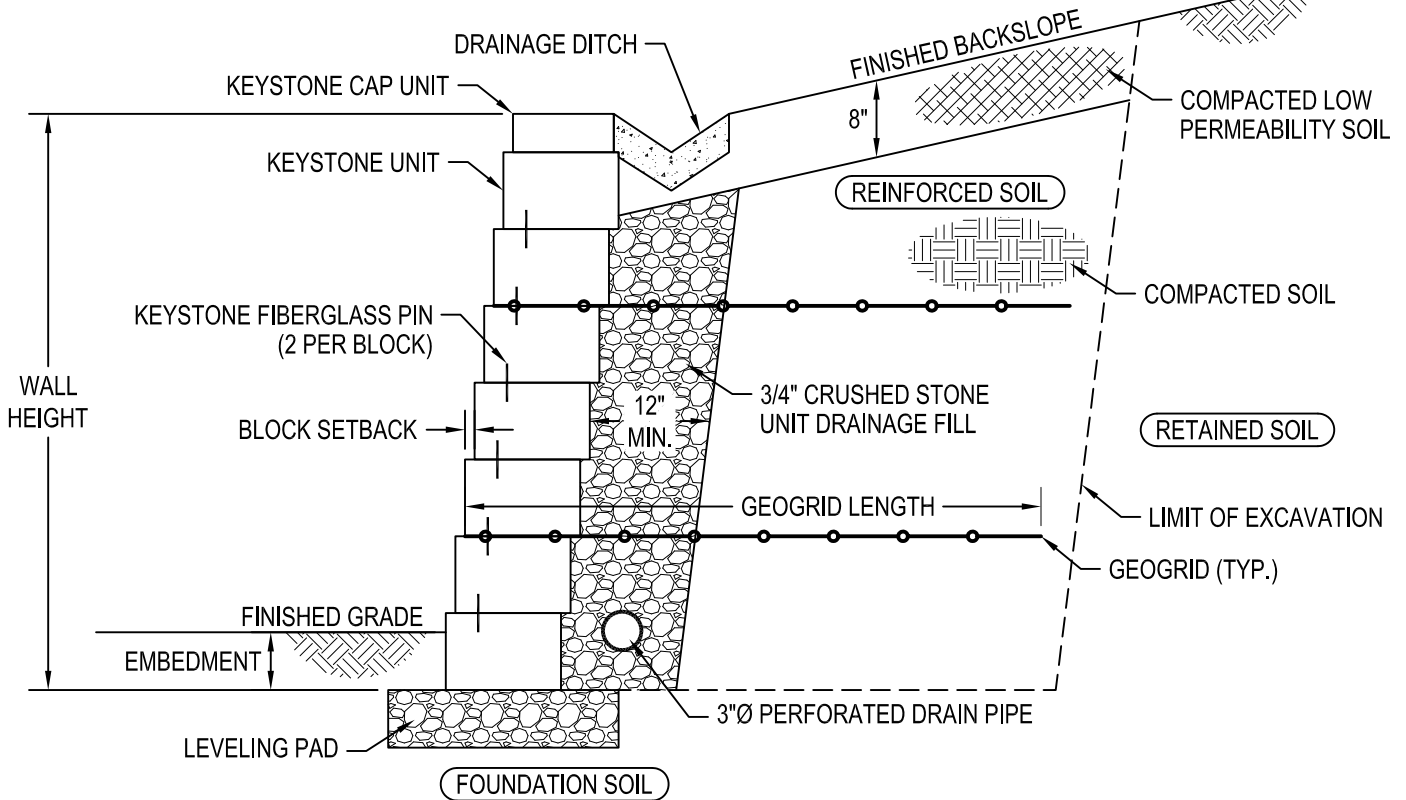
Case C (I) – 2H: 1V (26.6°) sloped backfill, no surcharge – CBC soil type 4 or better ( $\phi= 30^\circ$ )  
 Wall Batter: 7 Degrees (1" setback per unit)



Total Wall Height (H)	Numbers of Miragrid 2XT Layers	Grid Length and Position above the base, between the blocks of the wall face (Grid length is measured from the front face of the unit to the back of the geogrid)			
		Grid 1	Grid 2	Grid 3	Grid 4
1'-8"	-	-	-	-	-
2'-4"	1	(4'-0") 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	-	-	-
3'-0"	2	(4'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	(4'-0") 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	-	-
3'-8"	3	(4'-0") 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	(4'-0") 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	(4'-0") 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	-
4'-4"	3	(4'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	(4'-0") 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	(4'-0") 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	-
5'-0"	3	(5'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	(5'-0") 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	(5'-0") 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>	-
5'-8"	4	(5'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	(5'-0") 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	(5'-0") 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>	(5'-0") 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>
6'-4"	4	(5'-0") 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	(5'-0") 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	(5'-0") 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	(5'-0") 8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>

Note: Minimum Embedment Depth = 0'-6"

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### Glossary

KEYSTONE UNIT -	Keystone Compac III pinned units. Fill core with 3/4" clean crushed stone.
KEYSTONE CAP UNIT -	4" high cap unit. Cap units are secured to upper wall units with KapSeal adhesive per manufacturer's recommendations.
BLOCK SETBACK -	Block setback is determined by the multiple pin locations in each unit as required by the wall geometry and design.
EMBEDMENT -	Embedment required is a function of wall height and top slope. General recommendation is minimum embedment of 6" below the grade in front of the wall.
WALL HEIGHT -	Wall height is defined as the total wall height from top of leveling pad to top of wall.
DRAINAGE DITCH -	Drainage ditch is required for sloping backfill.
LIMIT OF EXCAVATION -	The limit of excavation is defined as the excavation necessary to install the wall system, leveling pad, drainage fill, drain pipe, and the geogrid reinforcement when required.
LEVELING PAD -	Leveling pad is typically constructed of compacted 3/4" crushed stone or gravel, 6" deep and 6" wider than the wall units front and back. Concrete may also be used.
DRAIN PIPE -	3" perforated pipe placed behind bottom of wall to provide additional drainage. Pipe shall be discharged to drainage swale or storm drainage system.
UNIT DRAINAGE FILL -	Drainage fill is a free draining 3/4" crushed stone that is placed within units and for a distance of 12" behind the wall units.
REINFORCED SOIL -	Reinforced soil backfill is placed and compacted in 8" thick lifts to a minimum 90% maximum dry density (ASTM D1557) with geogrid levels included at the design locations and lengths.
GEOGRID -	Geogrid is Mirafi Miragrid 2XT polyester reinforcement. Geogrid lengths are measured from the wall face to the end of reinforcement. Geogrid is placed on level compacted backfill and tensioned behind wall prior to backfilling.
FINISHED BACKSLOPE -	Finished backslope shall be low permeable soil to prevent surface runoff into wall backfill.

### KEYSTONE SEGMENTAL BLOCK WALL - COMPAC III UNIT GEOGRID REINFORCED WALL TYPICAL SECTION

SOIL TYPE = CBC SOIL TYPE 4 OR BETTER ( $\phi=30^\circ$ )

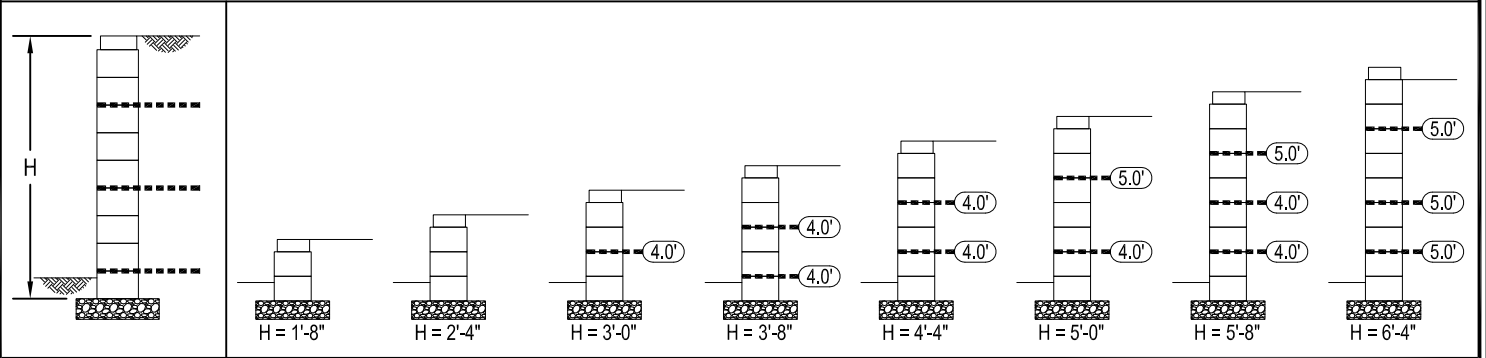


PLATE

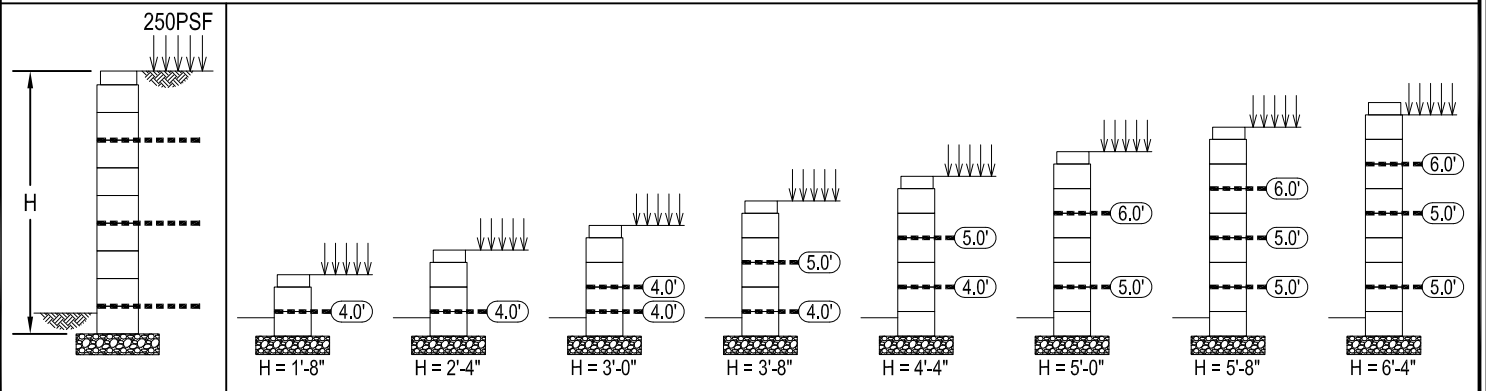
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# 0" BLOCK SETBACK (NEAR VERTICAL BATTER)

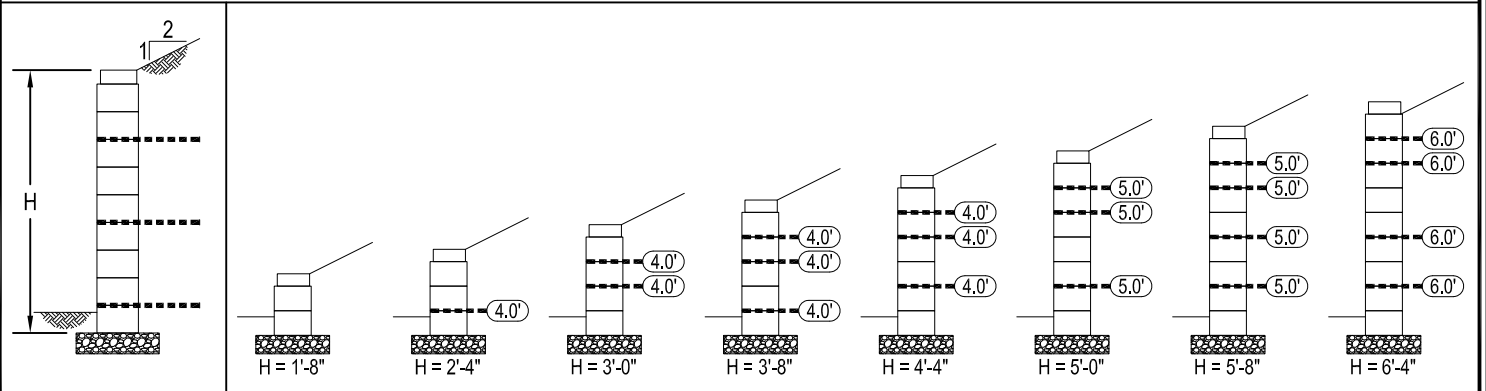
## CASE A - LEVEL BACKFILL WITH NO SURCHARGE



## CASE B - LEVEL BACKFILL WITH 250PSF SURCHARGE



## CASE C - 2H:1V SLOPING BACKFILL



### LEGEND

- GEOGRID LOCATION
- (X.0') GEOGRID LENGTH
- H TOTAL WALL HEIGHT

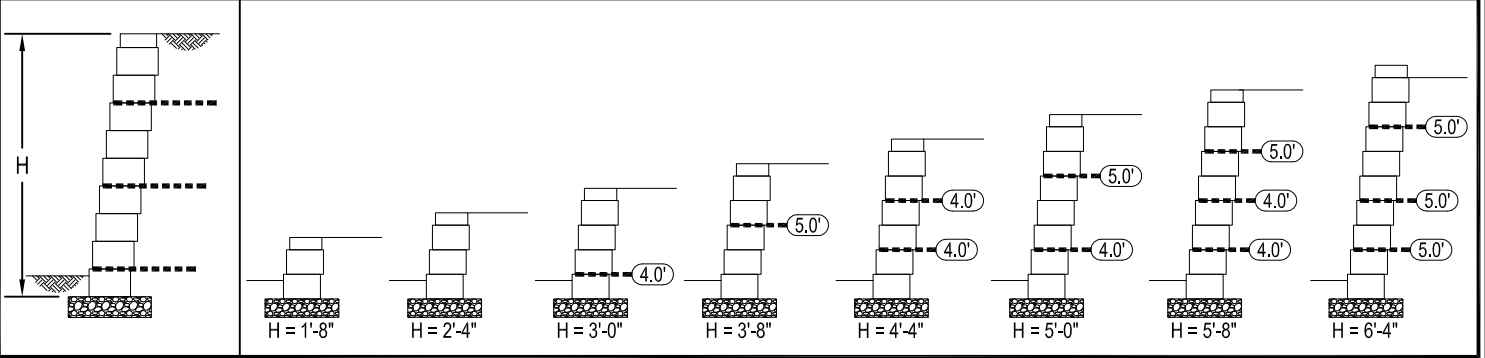
KEYSTONE SEGMENTAL BLOCK WALL - COMPAC III UNIT  
 GEOGRID REINFORCED WALL DESIGN CHART - 0" BLOCK SETBACK NEAR VERTICAL WALL

SOIL TYPE = CBC SOIL TYPE 4 OR BETTER ( $\phi=30^\circ$ )  
 GEOGRID = MIRAFI MIRAGRID 2XT

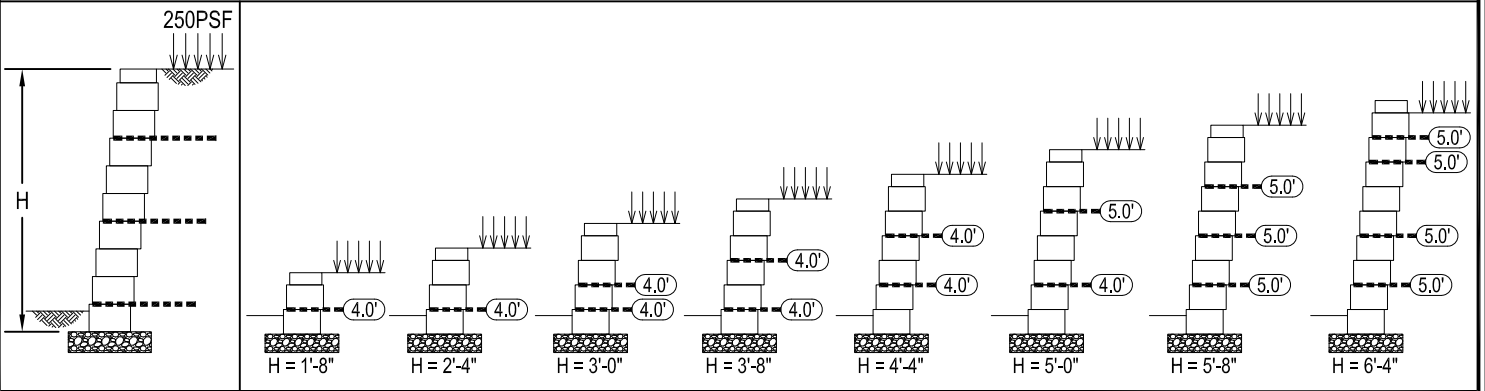


# 1" BLOCK SETBACK (7° BATTER)

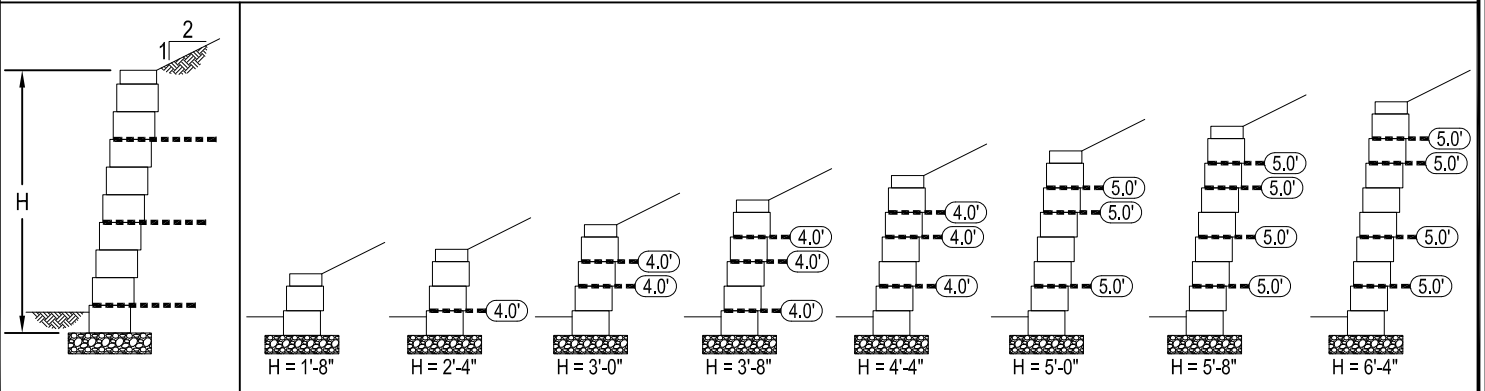
## CASE A - LEVEL BACKFILL WITH NO SURCHARGE



## CASE B - LEVEL BACKFILL WITH 250PSF SURCHARGE



## CASE C - 2H:1V SLOPING BACKFILL



### LEGEND

- GEOGRID LOCATION
- (X.0') GEOGRID LENGTH
- H TOTAL WALL HEIGHT

KEYSTONE SEGMENTAL BLOCK WALL - COMPAC III UNIT  
 GEOGRID REINFORCED WALL DESIGN CHART - 1" BLOCK SETBACK 7° BATTER WALL

SOIL TYPE = CBC SOIL TYPE 4 OR BETTER ( $\phi=30^\circ$ )  
 GEOGRID = MIRAFLI MIRAGRID 2XT

