Building Curves & Serpentines
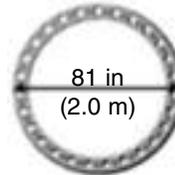
Basic Steps for Transistioning in and out of Curved Wall Sections

AB Courtyard Collection®

The AB Courtyard Collection is designed to let you easily build curved and serpentine walls. See How-to sheet #120 for building on soil.

When building curved walls it is best to build the first two courses at the same time. This helps align the blocks so additional courses continue to stack properly.
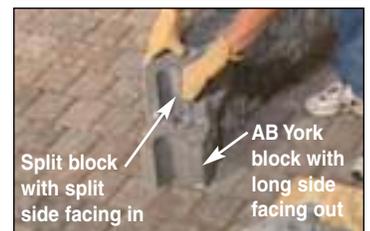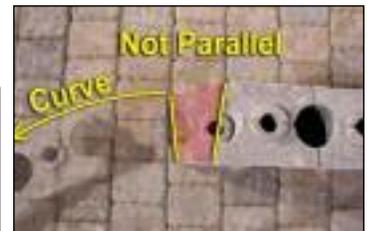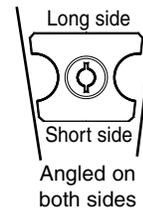
A pre-designed diameter is 81 in. (2.0 m). It takes 28 AB York blocks to make a complete circle.

81 in (2.0 m)

AB York Block

To build a larger radius, *see How-to sheet #200.*

AB York blocks come with a built-in angle on both sides of the block, making it easy to create curves and circles. When building with both straight and curved sections, on every other course an AB Dublin center-split block will need to be used to transistion between them.

Long side
Short side
Angled on both sides

AB York Block

AB Dublin Block

Step 1:   Build to the Curve
Install the first two courses of wall panel up to the approximate location where the curve will begin. *Building the first two courses at the same time ensures proper alignment.*
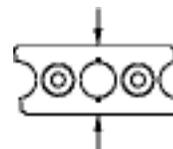
Step 2:   Make Adjustments
Before beginning the curve check to make sure that both courses are angled correctly. Both courses need to be parallel with each other and angled toward the direction of the curve. If one block is angled the opposite direction, remove the last block and slide the entire course over one block to correct.

Direction of Curve

Courses must be parallel

Not Parallel
Curve

Must be Parallel
Curve

Step 3:   Start of the Curve
On the first course, install an AB York block by placing the long side of the block facing the outside of the curve. On the second course, split an AB Dublin center-split block and place one half of it with the split side facing away from the curve. When the wall changes from a curve to a straight section, an AB Dublin center-split block is split to fill the gaps at the transition on every other course. *See How-to sheet #210 for information on splitting blocks.*

AB Dublin center-split block

Split block with split side facing in

AB York block with long side facing out

Step 4:   Build the Curve
With the curve started, stack additional courses using the AB York block and placing all of the blocks with their long sides facing the outside of the curve.

ALLAN BLOCK

allanblock.com

For a complete library of AB Courtyard Collection How-to sheets visit allanblock.com

Building Curves & Serpentines

Basic Steps for Transistioning in and out of Curved Wall Sections

Step 5:   End of the Curve
On the first course at the end of the curve, turn the AB York block around so the short side of the block is facing the outside of the curve to change the direction back to a straight wall. On the second course the other half of the AB Dublin center-split block will be placed with the split side facing out and toward the next section of the wall panel.
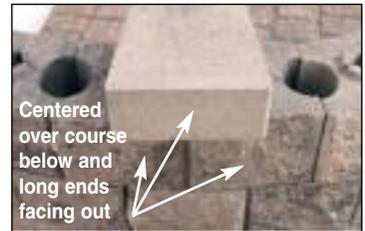
Step 6:   Additional Courses
Repeat this same process as described in Steps 2-5 for any additional courses. Every odd and even numbered course will be layed out exactly the same with block layout and where the split blocks will be used.

Step 7:   Finishing
Finish the wall with Wall Caps. On curved walls, place the long end of the Wall Caps facing the outside of the curve.   For proper alignment, start capping the wall at the curve and place the Wall Cap centered over two York blocks with their long ends facing out. To transistion the Wall Caps back to a straight section, alternate the direction of the Wall Cap. Secure the Wall Caps in place with a bead of masonry adhesive along both sides of the raised rings and along the side of each Wall Cap.

Split block with split side facing out

Centered over course below and long ends facing out

The information shown here is for use with the Allan Block Courtyard products only.

For a complete library of AB Courtyard Collection How-to sheets visit allanblock.com