

# BREEZE BLOCK GUIDE

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## WHAT ARE BREEZE BLOCKS?

Breeze blocks, decorative non-structural blocks, are commonly found in restaurants and building facades worldwide and are now easily accessible to everyone, even in your neighbor's backyard. Apart from enhancing the texture and design of indoor and outdoor spaces, breeze blocks offer practical benefits. These architectural elements diffuse direct sunlight, particularly beneficial in warmer climates. They also promote airflow in outdoor areas and define spaces effectively. Beyond their aesthetic potential, breeze blocks are also known for their durability and thermal efficiency, making them a practical choice for both indoor and outdoor projects. You can use them to construct garden walls, room dividers, or even stylish furniture pieces like benches and tables.

Breeze blocks create separation and privacy through breathable partitions that allow light and air into a space without the need for costly structural components. Introduced in American design and architecture in the 1930s, breeze blocks gained popularity until the 1970s, especially in regions like Palm Springs, influencing the local design style. Our designs combine the aesthetics of west coast Mid-Century Modern and contemporary Mexican architecture. As more designers embrace them, new innovative uses for breeze blocks are emerging in both residential and commercial settings.





# SUSTAINABILITY

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## WHERE ARE THEY MADE?

Mexico, of course! We produce our Clay Imports breeze blocks using 100% natural clay native to Central Mexico.

All Clay Imports breeze blocks are crafted in Mexico using natural clay and fired in a 100% solar-powered factory. This sustainable process reduces our carbon footprint while maintaining the durability and quality of traditional craftsmanship. By harnessing solar energy, we ensure that every breeze block is produced with minimal environmental impact, supporting a more responsible approach to architectural design.

## HOW ARE THEY MADE?

The clay blocks feature bold geometric patterns and highlight excellent craftsmanship. Each piece is produced by extracting dense red clay through a patterned dye (think Play-Doh). Then, the block is fired. Voilà, you now have a decorative breeze block for your project.



# DESIGN OPTIONS

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We offer a wide range of breeze block designs—from delicate traditional floral patterns and elegant Art Deco geometrics to bold, modern squares.

All blocks come in a classic terracotta red with fairly consistent color tones. However, you can easily personalize your blocks by painting them any color you like. For more details, see the [Breeze Block Painting](#) section.

Check out our breeze block selection [here](#)!

## CUSTOMIZATION

- **Pattern Customization:** While we don't offer custom block patterns, you can create unique looks by mixing different designs.
- **Color Customization:** Paint your blocks in any color to match your vision and style.





# WHERE TO INSTALL

Breeze blocks do more than provide structural support—they offer a unique opportunity to blend functionality with striking design. Thoughtful integration of breeze blocks can transform both outdoor and indoor spaces into stylish, functional environments.

- Front Yard | Screen off street views while allowing natural light to filter indoors.
- Back Porch | Create a shaded, well-ventilated backyard oasis perfect for relaxing.
- Partition Wall | Define boundaries inside or outside your home with breathable separation.
- Outdoor Paving | Design walkways that are as beautiful as the destination.
- Commercial Projects | Add texture and depth to commercial spaces for a distinctive look.
- Interior Walls | Bring warmth and privacy indoors. Ensure surfaces are level and solid for installation.
- Bar Face | Elevate your gathering space with a stylish breeze block design element.
- Terrace | Combine function and aesthetics on elevated outdoor terraces.
- Paver | Use breeze blocks creatively in walkways or driveways, embedded in aggregate and sand

# AVOID INSTALL

- Harsh Freezing Climates | Breeze blocks are prone to damage in consistently freezing environments.
- Dry Stacking | Avoid installing without mortar or proper bonding agents.
- Unstable Surfaces | Do not build on shifting substrates such as loose sand or gravel.
- Retaining Walls | Breeze blocks may require backing to prevent soil passage and often do not meet building codes for retaining walls. For these purposes, use decorative breeze blocks in front of a proper retaining structure.



# INSTALLATION | GETTING STARTED

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Proper installation is essential to the stability and beauty of breeze blocks. There are several factors to consider for your installation. **We are here to help you with the basics.**

While breeze blocks are visually appealing and practical, it's important to note that they are **not intended solely for structural purposes.**

**No installation is the same.** More complex installs such as a freestanding breeze block wall, increased wall height, climate, and stability might require more comprehensive project-specific installation methods. In such cases, it's advisable to seek guidance from an architect or structural engineer to ensure that your installation is well-suited for the climate and intended use of your space.

The advice provided aligns with industry standards. Consult your local building codes if considering deviations from our guidance.



# CLIMATE

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When planning your project, it's important to consider the local climate.

- **Warm Climates** | Breeze blocks promote airflow, helping reduce cooling costs and supporting environmentally friendly design. Their sturdy structure ensures durability and low maintenance under typical weather conditions.
- **Cold or Harsh Climates** | Breeze blocks are porous and not suitable for consistently freezing or extremely harsh environments. Freezing temperatures can compromise the blocks' integrity and affect adhesive performance.

## Installation Tips for Extreme Temperatures

- **Adhesive Temperature Ratings** | Always check the recommended temperature range on adhesive packaging before installation.
- **Follow Manufacturer Guidelines** | Adhere strictly to temperature and usage instructions to ensure proper bonding.
- **Use Suitable Adhesives** | If the adhesive fails to bond in extreme temperatures, switch to a product designed for those conditions to secure your blocks reliably.





# PREPARATION

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## Installation Preparation

1. Gather Materials | Collect all necessary supplies before starting.
2. Assess Constraints | Review your project requirements and any site limitations.
3. Determine Reinforcements | Identify if any structural supports or reinforcements are needed.
4. Design Considerations | Keep your aesthetic preferences in mind throughout the process.
5. Double-Check Measurements | Accuracy is key - measure twice to avoid errors.

## Important Tips

- Follow all manufacturer instructions for installation materials.
- Lay out your breeze blocks beforehand to confirm wall dimensions align with your block layout—this helps avoid cutting.
- Avoid cutting breeze blocks, as it can weaken the structure and disrupt the pattern.
- Remember to account for grout space between blocks.

*If you're uncertain about where to begin, seek advice from a masonry professional.*



# SUPPLIES

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- Breeze Blocks
- Adhesive (Construction Adhesive)
- Flexible Grout
- Reinforcement (e.g., Rebar, Wire Ladders, and/or Wall Ties)
- Grout Sponges
- Spacers
- Construction Level
- Tape Measure
- Pencil
- Safety Glasses
- Gloves
- Buckets
- Rags
- Level
- Drill

*We highly recommend seeking the guidance of a professional mason, as they possess the expertise needed for installing breeze blocks. It's also crucial to refer to the installation guidelines for materials such as masonry cement and grout.*



# FOUNDATION

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A solid, stable foundation is critical when constructing a breeze block wall. Concrete footings are the most common and recommended base for all freestanding masonry walls.

## Footing Size Guidelines

- Width: Approximately three times the width of the breeze block.
- Height: About 2 inches for every foot of wall height.
- **Example:** For a 4-inch wide block and a 4-foot tall wall, the footing should be roughly 12 inches wide and 8 inches high.

## Footing Tips for Success

- Minimize Visibility: Dig the footing deeper so most of it remains below ground level.
- Aesthetic Finishing: Use landscaping to conceal any visible footing areas.
- Freezing Climates: Extend footings down to the local frost line to prevent frost damage and ensure stability.

## Installation Prep

- Mark the concrete footing with clear guide marks for precise block placement.
- Clean the footing surface with a wet sponge to remove dust before laying blocks.

## Design Considerations

Choose your breeze block design based on your project needs. Some of our wider block designs provide a broader base, enhancing wall stability without compromising style.





# EXTERIOR REINFORCEMENT

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Reinforcing your breeze block installation is essential for both interior and exterior stability. While breeze blocks are sturdy, they are not load-bearing and require support for durability and safety.

## Reinforcement Methods

- Interior Reinforcement | Add structural supports within the wall using rebar, wire ladders, or masonry cement to connect blocks to existing structures.
- Exterior Support | Anchor breeze blocks to existing walls or build supporting frames using metal or wood to create secure, stable connections.
- Multiple Anchor Points | For best results, secure blocks at several solid points—such as anchoring to the floor and adjoining walls—to ensure rigidity.

Depending on your project, there are various ways to reinforce breeze blocks. Explore options suited to your structural setting to maintain strength without sacrificing design.

## Addressing Corners

- For 90-degree turns, align one wall flush with the edge of the adjoining wall for a clean finish.
- Use metal, angle iron, or wood posts to reinforce corners.
- To visually blend corner posts with the wall, paint them the same color as your breeze blocks.

# FRAMING TECHNIQUES FOR BREEZE BLOCK INSTALLATIONS

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## WOOD FRAMING

### Materials:

- Smooth wood panels or lumber (e.g., pine, plywood, MDF)
- Masonry adhesive or mortar
- Wood screws or nails
- Wood primer and paint or stain (optional)

### Tools:

- Power drill with screwdriver bits
- Hammer or nail gun
- Level
- Measuring tape
- Saw (circular or hand saw)

### Step-by-Step:

- Use smooth, flat wood panels or lumber to create a frame around breeze blocks.
- Attach the blocks securely with masonry adhesive or mortar.
- Wood framing adds warmth and can be painted or stained to match your design.
- Ideal for interior applications like bar counters or decorative walls.

## METAL FRAMING

### Materials:

- Steel or aluminum flat plates, angle iron, or metal posts
- Wall ties or masonry anchors
- Masonry adhesive suitable for metal-to-masonry bonding (e.g., liquid nails for masonry)

### Tools:

- Power drill with masonry and metal drill bits
- Angle grinder or metal saw (for cutting metal pieces)
- Screwdriver or impact driver
- Level
- Measuring tape
- Welding tools (optional, for metal fabrication)

### Step-by-Step:

- Steel or aluminum frames provide strong, durable support.
- Use flat metal plates, angle iron, or metal posts as the backbone.
- Secure blocks with wall ties, masonry adhesive, or special fasteners designed for masonry-to-metal bonding.
- Metal framing offers a sleek, modern aesthetic and is suitable for both indoor and outdoor use.

## HYBRID FRAMING

### Step-by-Step:

- Combine wood and metal elements for tailored structural and aesthetic results.
- For example, use metal posts for strength and wood panels for visual warmth.
- This method allows flexibility depending on the project's functional and design needs.
- Combination of tools and materials from both wood and metal framing above depending on your design.







# INTERIOR REINFORCEMENT

In addition to exterior reinforcement, incorporating interior reinforcement during installation is essential for structural integrity and long-term performance. Integrated reinforcement strengthens both horizontal and vertical joints, increasing the wall's overall rigidity and resistance to movement.

Once you've determined your project's structural needs, select the type of interior reinforcement best suited for your breeze block installation. Below are four industry-standard methods, along with best practices and materials.

- To enhance structural integrity, consider placing a vertical beam every 8 feet (2.44 m) for wall support.
- For wall heights above 9 feet (2.74 m), horizontal bond beams are recommended.

## INTEGRATED REINFORCEMENT TECHNIQUES FOR BREEZE BLOCK INSTALLATIONS

### METAL BEAMS AND PLATES

Purpose: Add long-term vertical and horizontal support discreetly, especially for taller or unsupported walls.

**Materials:**

- Flat steel plates or angle iron
- Vertical steel posts (as needed)
- Breeze blocks
- Grout or mortar

**Tools:**

- Masonry drill + bits
- Construction adhesive (for masonry-to-metal applications)
- Screw gun or bolts
- Tape measure
- Level

**Step-by-Step:**

- Plan Layout: Identify locations for vertical beams (every 8 ft) and horizontal plates (above 9 ft wall height).
- Drill + Secure: Drill into footing or existing structure. Secure steel beams using anchors or bolts.
- Install Blocks: Lay blocks, inserting flat steel plates horizontally between mortar joints where needed.
- Adhere Carefully: Use adhesive suitable for masonry and metal to adhere blocks around plates.
- Check Level + Stability: Continue layering, checking alignment and plate embedding for consistency.
- Finish Grouting: Fill joints and smooth over any metal showing (unless used decoratively).

### REBAR (Grid System + Vertical Insertion)

Purpose: Strengthen footings and vertical joints by embedding steel rebar into the layout.

**Materials:**

- 3/8" steel rebar
- Grout or concrete
- Spacers
- Breeze blocks

**Tools:**

- Rebar bender/cutter
- Trowel
- Drill (if retrofitting into existing foundation)
- Bucket + mixing paddle
- Measuring tape
- Level

**Step-by-Step:**

- Lay Concrete Footing: Include a rebar grid spaced evenly throughout, fully encased in concrete (3" minimum cover).
- Insert Vertical Rebar: Insert vertical bars into wet footing at intervals between blocks.
- Stack Blocks: Apply mortar and place blocks over vertical rebar, aligning them carefully.
- Secure Horizontal Courses: Add rebar horizontally between courses with mortar or adhesive.
- Grout Cavities: Fill block cavities around rebar with grout to secure reinforcement.
- Level + Cure: Ensure everything is straight and plumb, then allow to fully cure.

### LADDER WIRE (Between Mortar Joints)

Purpose: Reinforce horizontal mortar joints to prevent cracking and provide hidden strength.

**Materials:**

- Ladder wire (galvanized steel)
- Mortar
- Breeze blocks

**Tools:**

- Wire cutters
- Trowel
- Measuring tape
- Level
- Safety gloves

**Step-by-Step:**

- Lay First Row of Mortar: Spread mortar along the top of your first row of blocks.
- Cut Ladder Wire: Cut to size using wire cutters. Avoid overhang.
- Place in Mortar Joint: Press ladder wire into the mortar bed.
- Add Next Row: Lay the next course of blocks on top, sandwiching the ladder wire.
- Repeat: Continue installing ladder wire every other course or as needed.
- Check for Fit: Ensure wires are fully embedded and not sticking out of the block sides.

### WALL BRICK TIES (Between Mortar Joints)

Purpose: Secure breeze blocks to existing structural elements for added support and integration.

**Materials:**

- Wall ties (ribbed sheet metal or wire)
- Screws or nails
- Mortar
- Breeze blocks

**Tools:**

- Hammer or screw gun
- Trowel
- Wire cutters or metal snips
- Level
- Sponge

**Step-by-Step:**

- Attach Ties to Structure: Nail or screw ties into studs or concrete every 12–16" vertically and 16–24" horizontally.
- Bend Ties: Bend ties into position to embed into breeze block joints.
- Install Blocks: Apply mortar to block joints and place blocks around the embedded ties.
- Conceal: Once blocks are laid, smooth over ties with mortar for a seamless look.
- Continue Building: Repeat as needed until the entire structure is connected.
- Finish Cleanly: Use a sponge to clean mortar from surfaces before curing.

Always consult a licensed masonry professional when in doubt, especially for load-bearing applications or walls subject to extreme weather conditions.







# FRAMELESS

## Frameless Breeze Block Walls

While we recommend maximizing support, it is possible to build partially or fully frameless breeze block walls with:

- Proper interior reinforcement
- A substantial concrete footing

Consult a masonry professional before attempting frameless designs to ensure safety and durability.

## Stabilizing Frameless Walls with Existing Structures

Frameless walls can gain stability by:

- Incorporating wood or metal posts
- Attaching securely to existing structures using rebar, wall ties, or other reinforcements

This hybrid approach helps maintain rigidity without traditional framing.

Petalo | Design Howdy Vintage  
Gastamo Group | Michael HSU Architecture | Parrish Ruiz de Velasc  
Ventana | Design Quarterlab Design Build



# METAL PLATES, POSTS AND WOOD FRAMES

## FLAT METAL PLATES

Flat metal plates are a sleek and popular choice for framing and support. They provide structural integrity while keeping the focus on the breeze blocks themselves. Use masonry cement to adhere plates to masonry, or for a stronger bond, apply adhesives designed for masonry-to-metal adhesion (e.g., liquid nails).

## METAL POSTS

Metal or steel posts create a modern, durable frame around your breeze block wall. Secure blocks to posts using wall ties, weaving them between the blocks to enhance stability. For longer walls, add horizontal supports at the top and midsections for extra reinforcement.

## WOOD FRAME

For interior settings, smooth, flat wood paneling offers a warm, natural contrast to breeze blocks. Wood framing softens the look while providing a functional support structure.

Ventana | Design Lillianne Steckel | Photo Andrea Calok Simonte  
Petalo | Design by B. Berry Interiors | Photo by Peter Frank Edwards



# ROOM VENTILATION

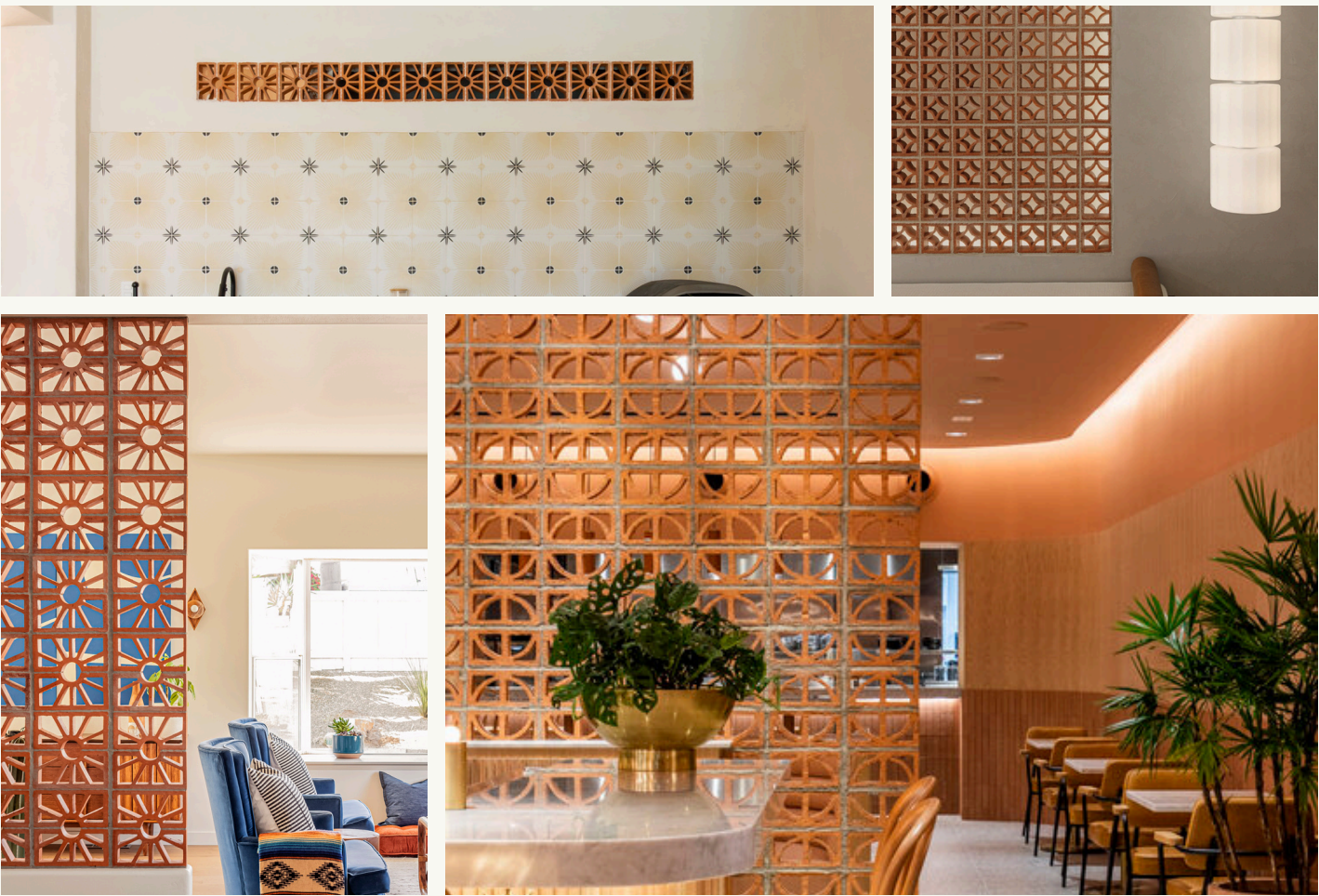
## SEAMLESS INTEGRATION

When enclosed by supporting walls on all sides, inserting breeze blocks creates a smooth connection that maintains structural integrity while allowing airflow. This method works well for partition walls and decorative installations. Inserting Breeze Blocks into Stucco Walls

- Build the wall frame using 4-inch (10 cm) cinder blocks and masonry.
- Incorporate breeze blocks alongside the cinder blocks during construction.
- After construction, cover cinder blocks with masonry and apply exterior-grade masonry paint for a finished look.

Note: While this process is straightforward, hiring a professional mason is recommended to ensure quality and durability.

Petalo | Design Colossus MFG  
Escala | TASTE Craft Eatery | Design C&Co. Home  
Design GDP Design Build



# EXTERIOR WALL OR RAILING

Using breeze blocks for exterior walls or railings is a stylish and practical way to enhance your outdoor space. Whether creating a walkway barrier, privacy partition, or ventilation wall, breeze blocks offer durability alongside natural airflow. Their versatile patterns add visual interest and create captivating light and shadow effects, transforming ordinary patios, walkways, or garden areas into inviting, dynamic environments.

Petalo | Austin Living Landscape | Regan Taylor Photography  
Escala | Design Pesoli Properties



# COLUMN | CEILING AND FLOOR

## SUPPORTING COLUMNS

Utilize brick ties to connect blocks to existing columns or for new column construction to enhance structure and privacy. If using brick ties, conceal them by applying grout. Below are some column examples:

- Stone columns with stone base masonry
- Traditional brick masonry for structural support
- Cement columns for framing
- Privacy wall supported by wood columns on a concrete footer

## CEILING + FLOOR SUPPORT

Supporting breeze block walls solely with the floor and ceiling works best for small-scale projects with limited height and width. Use caution with larger dimensions, as this method may compromise structural integrity. Reserve this technique for applications where stability is assured.



# FAUX SUPPORT OR WALL

## BAR FACE

Use breeze blocks to build a visually striking bar front. While not load-bearing, they add charm and texture as a decorative facade.

## BAR OR COUNTER SUPPORT

Breeze blocks can act as legs or supports for bar counters. For safety and stability, incorporate additional framing or support structures around the blocks to ensure a secure installation.

## WALL FEATURE

Enhance walls or facades by filling breeze block cavities with grout or mortar to embed them securely. Work in small sections to avoid covering the terracotta surface, keeping its natural beauty visible.

Pozos | Kuppi Coffee Company | Design Architecture Commoncraft | Photo Andrew Fu  
Pixel | Design Kaitlyn Wolfe | Photo Kevin Brost  
Ventana Grande | Sandcastle Inn | Design Breanne Marie | Photo Erica Joan Productions  
Pozos | Livbud Restaurant | Design BLUEMUSTARD | Photo Brooke Fitts





# PERMEABLE PAVERS | AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO PAVING

Permeable pavers offer an eco-conscious alternative to traditional patios, walkways, and driveways. These pavers allow rainwater to pass through their surface and naturally seep into the ground, reducing runoff, promoting groundwater recharge, and minimizing erosion. Their unique design not only supports sustainability but also adds charm and texture to both exterior and select interior spaces.

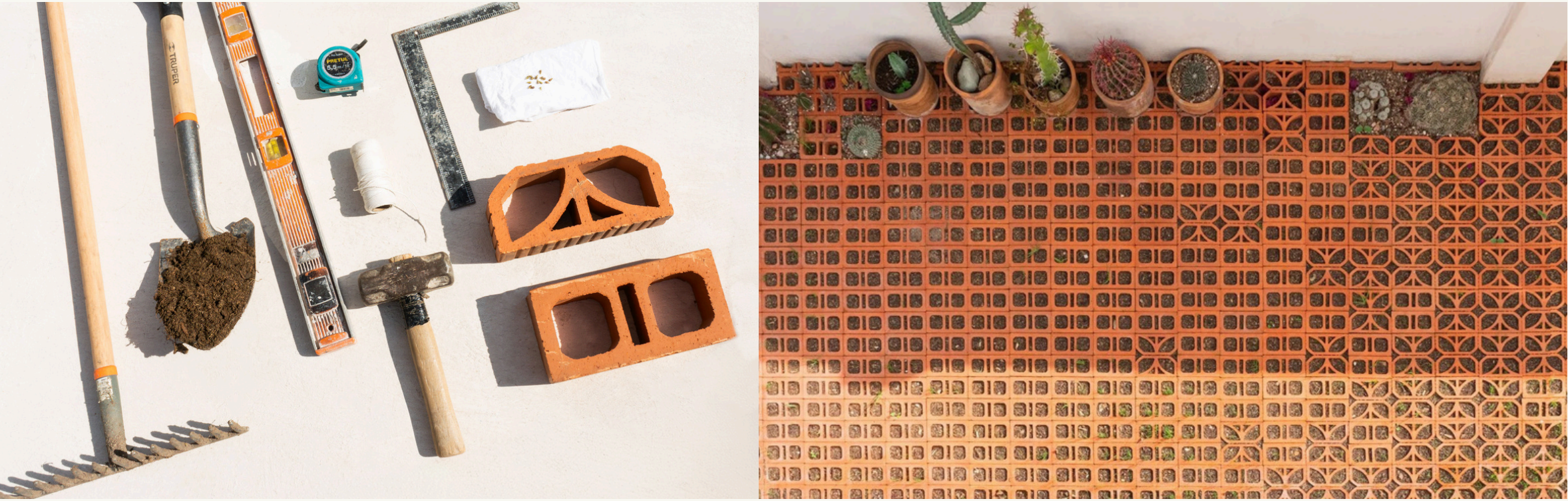
Terracotta pavers are a popular choice for permeable applications due to their durability, natural color, and versatility. They are thicker than standard tiles and designed with perforations or open cells to allow water infiltration. These pavers can be installed in a variety of outdoor settings—and in some cases, indoors for a rustic effect—using either a sand setting or mortar base.

### Key Features & Benefits:

- Eco-Friendly Drainage: Reduces surface runoff and encourages water absorption.
- Natural Materials: Made from clay, they offer a warm, earthy aesthetic.
- Plant-Friendly: Can be filled with soil or gravel to allow grass or plants to grow between the pavers.
- Versatile Usage: Suitable for patios, walkways, garden paths, and light-use driveways.
- Temperature Resistant: Clay remains cool to the touch and is well-suited for hot climates.

### Where to Use Terracotta Permeable Pavers

- Patios
- Walkways
- Garden paths
- Low-traffic driveways
- Poolside edges
- Interior sunrooms or mudrooms (non-permeable install)



## INSTALLATION

### RECOMMENDED INSTALLATION METHOD: SAND-SET

Surface Base: Soil or compacted gravel  
Fill Material: Gravel, coarse sand, or topsoil (if planting in between)

### RECOMMENDED TOOLS

- Tape Measure
- Level
- Stakes & String (for layout)
- Flat Shovel
- Tamper or Plate Compactor
- Wheelbarrow or Buckets
- Trowel (if using mortar)
- Gloves & Safety Glasses

### DESIGN & PLANNING

- Measure your area accurately. Measure twice, then measure again.
- Choose the right product: Not all breeze blocks are designed for paver use—only use blocks labeled as “permeable pavers.”
- Layout your design: Plan your pattern and account for overage (10–15%) to cover cutting and breakage.
- Order samples: Confirm fit, appearance, and orientation, especially if you plan to integrate perimeter blocks or cut edges.

### PREPARE THE GROUND

- Clear and level the installation area. Remove all debris and vegetation.
- Compact the soil base or use 4–6" of compacted gravel for added drainage.
- Dig to the necessary depth (usually 6–8") to accommodate base layers and pavers.
- Avoid impermeable membranes. If necessary, use a permeable landscape fabric to prevent weed growth while maintaining water flow.
- Ensure the ground is level and that pavers will sit flush with or slightly above ground height for a clean finish and better stability.

### PREVENT BLOCK MOVEMENT

- Use edge restraints like metal landscape edging, low retaining walls, or bury blocks vertically to form a perimeter.
- For added anchoring, you can also install pavers on their sides at the edges.

### LAY THE PAVERS

- Lay blocks tightly together to minimize shifting.
- Check for level frequently with each row or section.
- Adjust soil or gravel beneath individual pavers to maintain an even surface.

### FILL & FINISH

- Fill each paver’s perforations with:
  - Soil for grass or plants
  - Gravel or crushed stone for a minimalist look
  - Succulents, herbs, or cacti for a decorative garden path
- Water lightly to help settle fill material and secure placement.

### OPTIONAL: MORTAR-SET INSTALLATION (NON-PERMEABLE USE ONLY)

For indoor or decorative use only. Mortar-setting removes permeability but adds a more rigid, permanent structure. Not recommended for driveways or drainage areas.

# COMBINING BLOCKS AND PATTERNS

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## Mix and Match Patterns

- Combine different breeze block designs to create eye-catching, custom layouts. Keep in mind that different patterns may vary slightly in size. Always measure and test-fit before final installation.

## Paint for Impact

- Add visual interest with color. Painting select blocks or entire sections in vibrant or muted tones can make your wall a bold statement piece. Be sure to use masonry-appropriate paint.

## Incorporate Natural Elements


- Allow vines and plants to grow through the block openings to add organic softness and enhance the natural charm of the installation.

## Combine with Other Materials

- Pair breeze blocks with wood, cement, or tile accents to create depth and contrast. For example, a wooden frame can soften the structure and add warmth indoors.

## TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Dimensional Variations
- Mixed patterns may have subtle differences in height, width, or depth. We recommend:
  - Ordering samples first
  - Checking dimensions carefully
  - Planning your layout accordingly
- Firing Variations (Glazed vs. Unglazed)
- Avoid mixing glazed and unglazed blocks. The firing process can cause shrinkage in glazed blocks, making them incompatible in combined layouts.
- Embrace Imperfections
- Slight inconsistencies in size or shape can add texture and personality to your project—don't be afraid to showcase them as part of your design aesthetic.

 Check out our video tutorial to see [how to mix and match breeze block patterns](#) effectively.





Perdida Denver Gastamo Group | Photo Stephan Werk

# PAINTING BREEZE BLOCKS

## SUPPLY LIST

- Dust Brush
- Masonry Paint
- Container big enough to dip blocks in
- Gloves (optional)

## WHAT PAINT TO USE

- Utilize Behr masonry paint for optimal results.
- Consider dip painting with a Masonry Stain, a pigment that mixes with water.
- Apply epoxy-based paint using an air sprayer onto the raw clay block.

Ensure that the chosen paint is suitable for outdoor use and application on brick or other masonry items. Remember to test a few blocks before painting all of them to guarantee durability.

## PRE-INSTALLATION DIP METHOD

The dip method is our preferred approach for pre-installation painting. This technique allows you to efficiently coat breeze blocks, especially inside crevices and edges, ensuring even, full coverage.

STEPS:

- 1.Clean the Blocks: Wipe each breeze block to remove all dust and debris. A clean surface is essential for proper paint adhesion.
- 2.Dip the Block: Submerge the block—partially or fully—into a container filled with your selected masonry-grade paint. Let excess paint drip off before placing it aside to dry.
- 3.Drying Time: Allow the blocks to dry completely in a dust-free environment before installation.

OPTIONS

- Dip all sides for full coverage
- Dip one side for a more minimal look
- Consider sponge whitewashing for a soft, natural finish

*Note: Even with proper application, chipping over time is normal and can expose the terracotta underneath—adding natural contrast and patina.*

## POST-INSTALLATION DIP METHOD

If your wall is already installed, painting is still achievable with the right tools.

STEPS:

- 1.Clean the Wall Thoroughly:
  - Use a concrete degreaser or detergent (such as driveway cleaner).
  - For outdoor walls, spray down with a hose.
  - For indoor applications, clean using a damp sponge.
- 2.Dry Completely: Ensure the wall is fully dry before painting.
- 3.Spray Application: Use an airless sprayer for even, deep coverage. Brushes are not recommended due to the texture and recesses of breeze blocks.
  - If using paint that requires a primer, mix accordingly before spraying.
  - If your paint is labeled “no primer required,” you can apply it directly.

*Optional Finish: A sponge whitewash can be applied for a textured, rustic effect.*



# GLAZED BREEZE BLOCKS

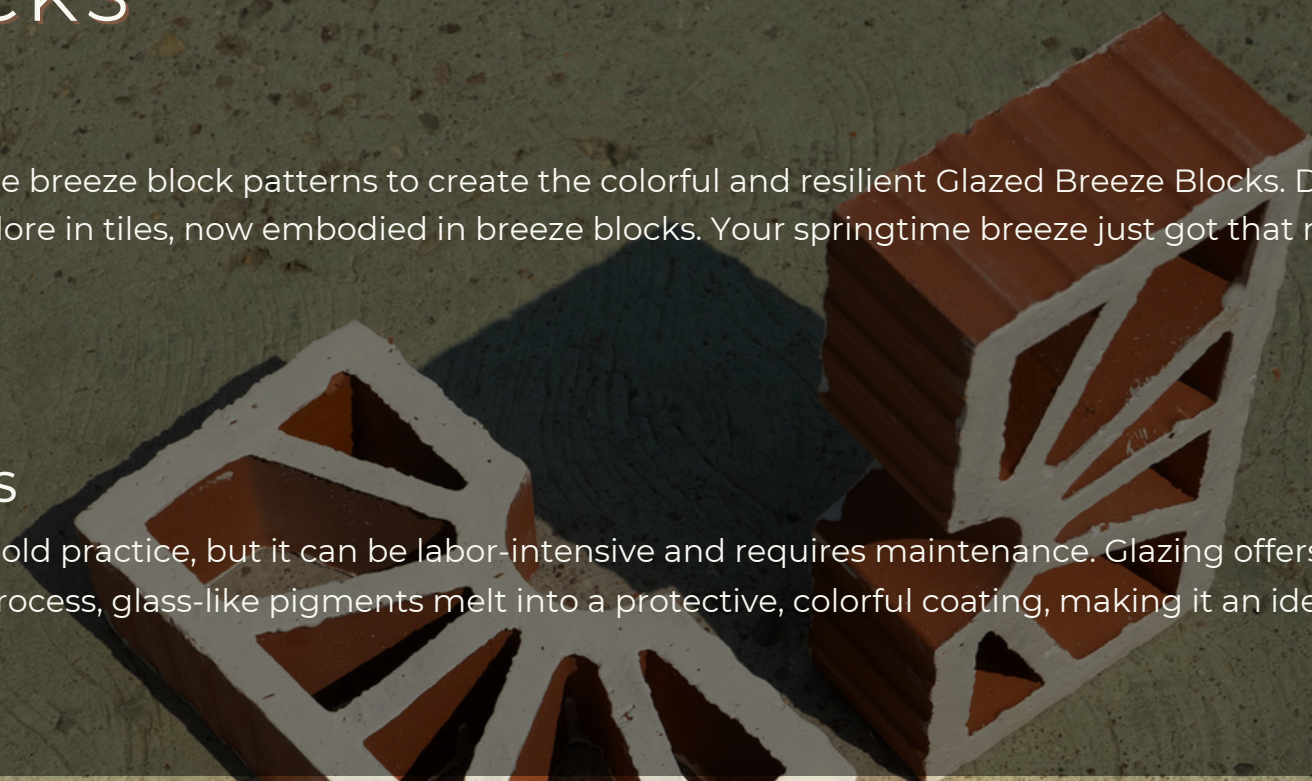
## WHAT ARE THEY?

We combined our most popular tile glazes with your favorite breeze block patterns to create the colorful and resilient Glazed Breeze Blocks. Double-fired for enhanced durability, all the handmade variations you adore in tiles, now embodied in breeze blocks. Your springtime breeze just got that much cooler.

## HOW THEY ARE MADE

## PAINTED VS GLAZED BREEZE BLOCKS

Painting breeze blocks different colors has been a decades-old practice, but it can be labor-intensive and requires maintenance. Glazing offers a more durable and hassle-free alternative. Through a high-firing process, glass-like pigments melt into a protective, colorful coating, making it an ideal finish for exterior use.



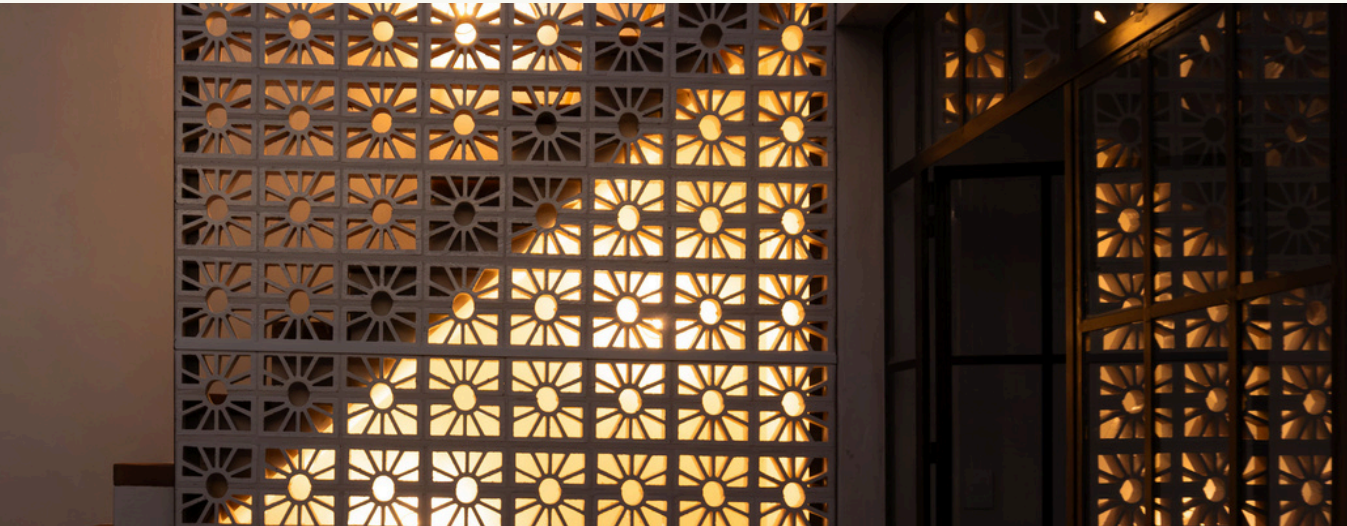


# LIGHTING

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## ADDING LIGHTING AS AN ELEMENT

Consider using LED strips that can be easily affixed behind the blocks, casting a soft glow that emphasizes their texture and shape. You could also explore placing small, recessed lights directly within the blocks, allowing light to spill out through the gaps and creating intriguing patterns on adjacent surfaces. For a more dynamic effect, opt for color-changing LEDs that can be adjusted to suit the mood or occasion, transforming your space with just the touch of a button. Additionally, incorporating smart lighting systems can offer the convenience of controlling the ambiance remotely, ensuring your breeze block feature always looks its best.



# SEALING

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Terracotta breeze blocks are clay-based and naturally porous. This makes them vulnerable to staining during the grouting process and susceptible to moisture-related wear, especially in freezing climates. Sealing is a recommended step to preserve both appearance and performance.

## WHY SEAL?

- Prevent Staining: Grout can permanently darken or discolor unsealed blocks
- Preserve Natural Color: A penetrating sealer protects while maintaining the original finish
- Increase Durability: Especially in outdoor or freeze-prone environments

## HOW TO SEAL

Step 1: We recommend a [Penetrating Sealant](#) designed for unglazed clay or terracotta surfaces. This type of sealer absorbs into the material without leaving a glossy finish.

Step 2: Apply Sealant

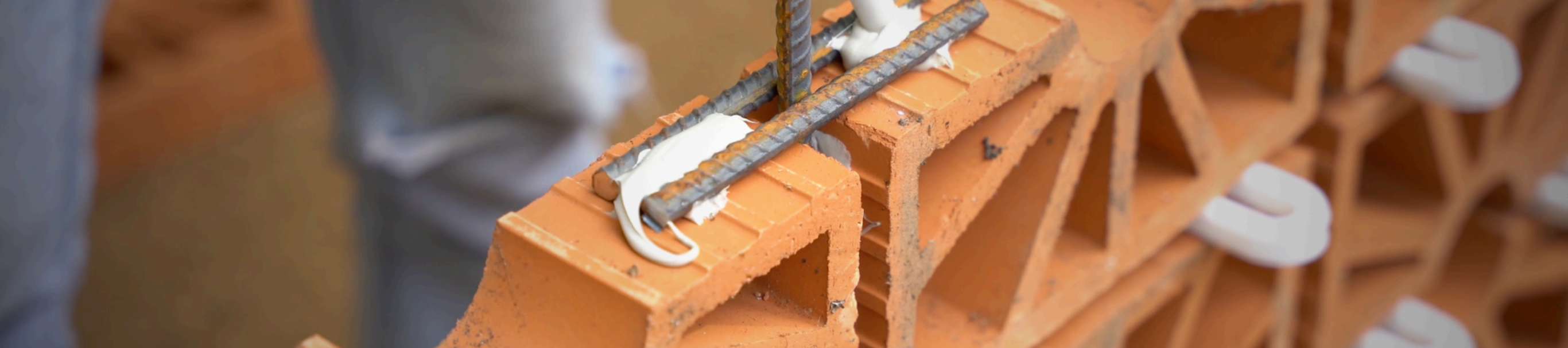
- Use a clean brush or roller
- Apply only to the front and back surfaces of each block
- Avoid coating the sides, top, or bottom—these areas need to bond properly with mortar or grout

Step 3: Ensure the blocks are completely dry before installation. Follow the drying time provided by your sealant manufacturer.

## IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

- Sealing is optional but highly recommended, especially for exterior installations
- A well-sealed block will resist moisture intrusion, reducing the chance of freeze-thaw damage
- If staining or finish is a concern, always test the sealant on a sample block before committing





# ADHERE | METHODS

Once you’ve established a sturdy, level surface, you’re ready to install your breeze blocks. Do not dry stack—proper bonding is essential for stability and longevity. Because breeze blocks are extruded, they tend to be very uniform in shape, allowing for clean joints and precise alignment.

Installation Method	Recommended Grout Joint
Conventional Masonry Cement	3/8” to 1/2”
Technical Adhesive (e.g., Liquid Nails, ProLite®)	1/4” (then filled with sanded grout)

## CONVENTIONAL MASONRY CEMENT

This approach mirrors traditional bricklaying and uses masonry cement (mortar) as both the adhesive and joint filler.

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS:

- Masonry cement or mortar mix
- Trowel
- Pigments (optional)

BENEFITS:

- Simple, time-tested method
- Mortar doubles as adhesive and grout
- Joint lines can be tinted using colored mortar or added pigment

Note: The mortar joints will remain visible, contributing to the aesthetic. Choose a color that complements your design.

## TECHNICAL INSTALLATION

For a cleaner look and more flexibility with joint colors, you can use ProLite® Premium Large Format Tile Mortar or Liquid Nails® as adhesives.

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS:

- ProLite® or high-strength construction adhesive
- Spacers
- Sanded grout (for finishing joints)
- Trowel, caulk gun, or adhesive spreader

STEPS:

1. Apply a thin, even layer of adhesive to each block.
2. Use spacers to maintain consistent 1/4” gaps between blocks.
3. Once adhesive sets, fill joints with your chosen sanded grout.

BENEFITS:

- Requires minimal adhesive
- Allows custom grout color selection
- Cleaner joint appearance



# TECHNICAL

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## STRUCTURAL & MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

- Load Capacity Rating: 2,300 psi
- Water Absorption: 0.5% – 3%
- Abrasive Resistance: C4
- Scratch Hardness (MOHS): 6
- Coefficient of Friction: C3
- Frost Resistance: Not frost-proof

## THERMAL & FIRE RESISTANCE

Material: Fired Clay (~1200°C firing temperature)

Fire Resistance (based on wall thickness):

- 100 mm (4") walls: 1–2 hours
- 230 mm (9") walls: 3–4+ hours

Fire Rating Standards Referenced:

- ASTM E119
- EN 1363-1 / EN 13501-2
- ISO 834

*(Note: Fire rating is estimated per standards. This product has not been independently fire-tested.)*

## COMBUSTIBILITY: NON-COMBUSTIBLE

- Toxicity: Emits no toxic fumes
- Thermal Mass: High — delays heat transfer
- Thermal Shock Resistance: Excellent

# MAINTENANCE

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Clay breeze blocks are crafted from natural terracotta, offering a durable yet porous material ideal for a wide range of applications. While inherently strong, proper maintenance is key to preserving their beauty and integrity over time—especially in outdoor environments.

## WHY MAINTENANCE MATTERS

Outdoor installations are more prone to wear due to exposure to:

- Harsh UV sunlight
- Freeze/thaw cycles
- Prolonged rain and water contact

These elements can gradually affect the surface quality and structural performance of the blocks. Preventative care can extend the life of your installation and help avoid future costly repairs.

## ROUTINE MAINTENANCE TIPS

- **Inspect Regularly** – Perform a visual inspection every few months. Look for cracks, separation from supports, or corrosion on any metal framing or reinforcements.
- **Clean as Needed** – Remove dirt or moss with a soft-bristle brush and a mild detergent. Avoid power washing, which may damage the terracotta surface.
- **Seal if Exposed** – In high-moisture or freezing climates, a breathable masonry sealant can protect the block surface from excessive water absorption and cracking.

## ADDRESSING STRUCTURAL MOVEMENT

Just like a home’s foundation, structural shifts in a breeze block wall can lead to visible cracks or weakened integrity. If you notice:

- Gaps forming between blocks
- Movement or loosening of the structure
- Rusting or failure of reinforcement ties or plates

Contact a licensed masonry professional immediately to evaluate the installation and prevent further damage.

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# COMMON ISSUES + SOLUTIONS

Even with proper installation, breeze block walls may face natural wear over time, especially in outdoor environments. Below are common issues and practical solutions to help maintain their performance and appearance.

## MOLD

Cause: Porous terracotta absorbs moisture, creating an ideal environment for mold—especially in shaded or humid areas.

Solution:

- Regularly dust surfaces with a dry cloth or broom
- For persistent spots, use a damp cloth and a non-acidic cleaner
- Avoid pressure washers or harsh chemicals that may damage the clay

## CHIPPING

Cause: Terracotta breeze blocks can chip upon impact or during rough handling.

Solution:

- Handle with care during installation and nearby activity
- Seal chipped areas promptly to prevent water ingress
- For painted surfaces, keep extra paint on hand for touch-ups: Clean the chipped area. Then reapply matching paint.
- Replace severely chipped or cracked blocks with professional help

## CORROSION

Cause: The open structure of breeze blocks can collect water, leading to clay erosion or corrosion over time.

Solution:

- Apply a penetrating sealer during installation
- Reapply sealer periodically, especially in freeze/thaw climates or after heavy rains
- Inspect lower sections regularly for erosion and water pooling
- Clear debris from perforations to improve drainage

## COLOR VARIATION

Cause: Natural clay tones can shift over time with sun exposure, weather, and moisture.

Solution:

- Embrace the organic patina as part of the material's character
- Limit color shifts with a UV-resistant sealer
- Paint blocks to control or refresh color (dip or spray methods recommended)

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# IMPORTANT NOTE

The structural integrity and final outcome of your breeze block installation heavily depend on proper planning and execution. Clay Imports does not offer a product warranty on breeze blocks and is not liable for dissatisfaction resulting from installation or structural performance. Please inspect all breeze blocks immediately upon delivery. If you observe any quality concerns, contact us right away. This guide is intended as a general reference only. Every installation scenario is unique. For best results, consult with a licensed masonry professional who can assess site-specific needs and local building code requirements.

## CRITICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Breeze block walls are non-load-bearing and should not carry structural loads unless supported by engineered systems
- We do not manufacture or supply bond beams or structural reinforcement materials
- Reinforcement is highly recommended to improve wall integrity, but it does not render installations indestructible

For the safety, durability, and beauty of your breeze block project, always work with experienced professionals and follow best practices.

CLAY