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Front of Flower Bed with start of 'foundation'

Terraforce reversible hollow core retaining blocks have once again proved their versatility when they were used to transform this garden ready for the summer months. Creating a raised bed from ground level involves backfilling rather than excavating a site as was recently done by customers in Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire, “Nothing was growing in our flower bed, the edges were looking scruffy and the front garden was basically featureless”

The customers chose to raise their flower beds using buff coloured Terraforce blocks.

“We had considered several alternatives to raising our bed including sleepers. Sleepers, however besides being costly would have been very limiting in terms of the shape of flower bed we could have achieved.”

The customers also considered a standard brick wall but the need for a concrete base/foundation as well as the time and cost involved in building a brick wall meant that this was not an option.

“Terraforce blocks could create the curved effect we were looking for. The fact that the wall could be built without a concrete foundation or mortar jointing meant that we could transform our garden in a couple of days.”



Side of flower bed. Blocks to be used as 'edging'

120 (1 pallet) of buff Terraforce blocks were delivered to the site and the wall was completed within a day from start to finish.

“The speed and ease with which the wall was built was a real plus and meant that the entire job was done in a weekend. It was so easy to create the curves that we wanted without the need for any cement and therefore no drying time. It was also simple to adjust the shape as we built”



Begin laying the blocks

Creating a raised bed from a level surface differs somewhat from a usual retaining wall in that you are “backfilling” and building up the bed rather than excavating existing ground.

For small projects of this nature, the Terraforce block is ideal due too its weight and dimensions. (The block weighs only 6kgs)



Raised Front Bed. Three Curved Levels for Planting

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The process used by the customers to build their raised bed was straightforward and involved the following steps.

1. The shape of the wall was marked out.

2. A foundation or “trench” was dug in the shape of the desired wall. This was approximately 10cm in depth. (In this case the wall was only one block high)

3. A light tamper was used to compact the soil in the trench to ensure it was firmly compacted.

4. The trench was filled with coarse sand which makes the blocks easier to lay. This coarse sand was compacted using the tamper.

5. The first level of blocks was laid. A spirit level was used to check the level of each block and the level in relation to the rest of the wall.
6. The first level was backfilled with topsoil and which was compacted.

7. The second and third level were created using the same process ensuring that the backfill was fully compacted at each stage as it is the backfill that ensures the integrity of the wall.

8. The wall was planted with the selected plants.


Side of flower bed. One layer of blocks backfilled with soil


Completed Raised bed and Edging

“Our wall has attracted a lot of attention and interest and everybody has been extremely impressed at the result. I can’t wait to see how the garden develops and intend to use the blocks in my back garden too”.


Raised Flower bed backfilled with soil


Close up of Raised Bed

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