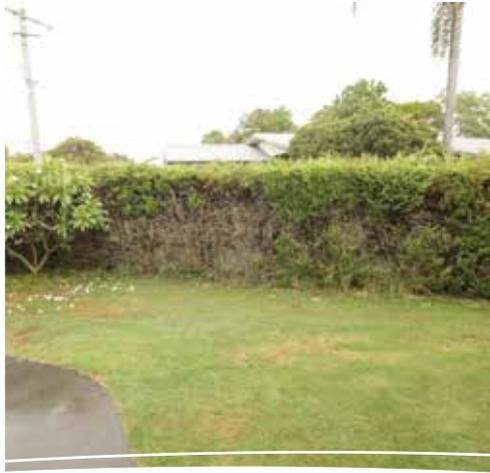


## How to build a DIY garden edge with Jason Hodges

Featuring Adbri's Miniwall®

*"A garden edge is one of the best bang for buck DIY projects you can do around the home! Easy to use garden edging blocks will help separate your lawn from your garden so the grass doesn't grow into the plants leaving your yard looking messy, unfinished and unloved! The reason I use concrete blocks is that they are super easy to work with, you can make straight and curved edges and they come in a range of colours to suit your style!"*

Jason Hodges | Landscaping Expert

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Jason's top Garden Edging project preparation tips:

- > Consider the height you would like your edge to go to – one block high? Two blocks high? This will help determine which block is best suited to your project.
- > What are you going to plant in your new garden area? Consider the best plants and flowers for this area (i.e. is it shady or always in the sun?).
- > Make sure you have all the safety gear you need ready – Gloves, safety glasses and close-toed shoes are a must for DIY projects.

### TOOLS REQUIRED

- > Brush
- > String Line
- > Caulking Gun
- > Measuring Tape
- > Rubber Mallet
- > Shovel/Spade
- > Small Sledge Hammer
- > Whacker Packer
- > Timber Float
- > Timber Stakes
- > Level
- > Liquid Nails
- > Straight Edge

Jason uses  
**Adbri Miniwall® Blocks**



#### STEP 1 - SETTING OUT THE AREA



Mark out the location of your garden edge. Set up a string line and mark the area to be excavated with a spray on marking paint. If your edge curves, you can use rope or even the garden hose to mark over.

**TIP**

Use the same face of the stakes when aligning string line

#### STEP 2 - PREPARE THE TRENCH



With a spade, excavate the marked area to approx 200mm in depth which allows for 100mm of road base, 30mm of sand and a portion of the block for your first course to be below ground level. Remove any rocks, root or debris and compact the base of the trench.

**TIP**

For the width of your trench, go twice the width of your block or the width of the wacker-packer!

### STEP 3 - BRING IN ROAD BASE



Spread road base through the trench and work towards an even surface. Then, with a plate compactor (wacker-packer), go over the area two to three times to ensure road base is compact and firm.

#### TIP

*Make sure you're wearing closed in shoes, ear protection and eye protection while operating the wacker.*

### STEP 5 - LAYING THE FIRST COURSE



You can now begin laying the blocks. Set up a string line along the length of the wall to ensure all blocks remain flush and straight. Place blocks on the sand, check level and tap into place with a rubber mallet. Continue laying blocks tightly next to each other through the length of your wall.

### STEP 7 - SECURE CAPPING



Once you have finished laying your garden edge blocks, you need to secure the capping units to the top course of the garden edge. Sweep the top of each block first to remove dirt and rubble. Then with a landscape adhesive in a caulking gun, place 'blobs' of glue on the front and rear of your top course and firmly place the speciality capping unit. Use a rubber mallet to tap down and check level in both directions.

### STEP 4 - SCREED SAND AND LEVEL



In a wheelbarrow, make a damp mix of sand and cement (6:1). This mix will be screeded over the compacted road base to a thickness of approximately 30mm and then worked until level. Use a small straight edge and timber float to help you screed until you have a level surface - check using a spirit level. This is a vital part of the project as it will affect your entire edge. Spend some time here getting the level right!

#### TIP

*Ensure footing is level in both directions.*

### STEP 6 - LAYING SUBSEQUENT COURSES



Once the first course is complete, subsequent courses are simply stacked on top of the blocks below using a stretcher bond pattern. Be sure to sweep off any loose material sitting on top of the blocks that may affect the placement of the next course and continue to check the wall is level as you go.

#### TIP

*Make sure base and where you are laying is clean.*

### STEP 8 - PLANT AND ENJOY



After allowing suitable time for the glue and caps to dry, you can begin bringing in the soils for your garden bed. Aim to fill behind the edge to approximately half way up your capping unit. A handy tip is to firstly fill behind your edge to about half way and then place your plants, flowers and trees before then filling the rest of the way with soil - this will save you digging new holes later!

#### TIP

*Using mulch can help reduce weeds*



**"GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR PROJECT!"**

### SHARE YOUR FINISHED WORK WITH US!

Email your pictures to [diy@adbri.com.au](mailto:diy@adbri.com.au)

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