

3.16 ADDITIONAL COURSES

Additional Courses



Continue to build following the same guidelines for the 1st and 2nd courses.

It is easiest to install the number of courses between layers of horizontal rebar. If there is rebar in the first course and called for again in the 3rd, 5th, 7th, etc., build course 1 and 2 as indicated – level and plumb. Lay the 3rd course and rebar. Now lay 4 and 5, install rebar, lay 6 and 7, install rebar, etc... Anytime you look at the top course there should be rebar.

Example: If horizontal rebar is called for in 1,4,7,10, etc... do 1,2 – level, attach to footing/slab, lay courses 3,4 rebar, 5,6,7, rebar, 8,9,10 rebar, etc...

If building below grade and rebar is required in every course you can lay each course individually or with practice and good teamwork 2 courses at a time.

Once you have reached sill height for a window, cut an appropriate notch (if necessary), set and align the buck. Make sure the bracing kickers to the buck are easy to adjust, so you can realign later as needed. *See door and window bucks Section 3.12.*

As you place the blocks over openings, notch them as needed to clear the bucks. It is ideal to leave a ¼ inch gap over the top of every buck. This allows the wall to compress during the pour without crowning the wall.

If you are at a story connecting course, cover the nubs with plastic, tape or gutter sections prior to placing concrete. This keeps the nubs free of concrete and ready for additional block installation.

When you install the final top course, knock or cut the nubs off prior to block installation.



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TIP: Run a small bead of glue on next to top course blocks nubs prior to laying top blocks around the entire perimeter. (Since there is less pressure to hold this block vertically in the wall, a small amount of glue ties it into the lower courses.)

In most cases it is easier to build the structure uniformly:

- Reduces the risk of overlooking a window or door
- Reduces risk of missing rebar specifications
- Facilitates proper timing of alignment/staging systems
- Facilitates ease of construction
- Presents a professional image to owners/potential clients

However, there are exceptions when construction of areas in stages is required as advised:

- Larger projects or larger crews
- Different floor or roof levels where block is installed on footer/slab on different levels