

RETAINING WALL WATERPROOFING 12-STEP GUIDE

01 INSPECT FOR CRACKS

Perform a thorough inspection of the retaining wall (block/brick) and the footing for any cracking or exposed steel. Notify the builder or surveyor if any issues are found before starting the waterproofing process.

02 REMOVE EXCESS BUILD-UP

Use a heavy-duty scraper or bolster to remove any excess concrete or clay build-up on the retaining wall that may have occurred during construction.

03 CLEAN THE WALL

Wash the wall and footing with a high-pressure hose to ensure all contaminants are cleared before preparation and priming. Ensure there is a sufficient spacing for access between the retaining wall and the existing natural ground (minimum 500mm).

04 FILL HOLES

Fill any holes (not pinholes) in the retaining wall using mortar or construction grout to create a seamless surface that allows the **ATECHPROOF® RETAIN** to perform effectively. Follow the recommended dry times based on weather conditions.

05 PRIME THE SURFACE

Apply **MIGHTYPRIME™** to the surface and rebate using a roller and brush to enable proper adhesion of the **ATECHPROOF® RETAIN** to the substrate. Follow the recommended dry times.

06 CAULK EXPANSION JOINTS

Use **ATECHFLEX® FILLET** to caulk any vertical expansion joints. Install a foam backing rod into the expansion joint before caulking to ensure optimal performance. Follow **ATECH®**'s architectural details and relevant AS standards.

07 INSTALL REINFORCING TAPE

Using a paintbrush, apply **ATECHPROOF® RETAIN** and install **FABTAPE™** (reinforcing tape) to the footing/junction.

08 APPLY WATERPROOFING MEMBRANE

Using a roller and paintbrush, apply 2 thick coats of **ATECHPROOF® RETAIN** to the substrate, ensuring the recommended thickness is achieved. Allow a minimum of 24 hours to dry. Consider **ATECHPROOF® MASONRY** for brick, block, or concrete walls. Refer to the data sheet for details.

09 INSPECT & TOUCH UP

After the **ATECHPROOF® RETAIN** has fully cured, visually inspect for any pinholes or areas that require touching up before backfilling.

10 INSTALL PROTECTION BOARD

Before backfilling the retaining wall with crushed rock and topsoil, install a suitable protection board. Research and choose the appropriate board for the wall height and drainage properties of the existing soil/clay. Ensure the membrane is not directly exposed to dirt, crushed rock, or sunlight. Secure the board using strong tape or sealant.

11 INSTALL AG DRAIN

Work with the builder or plumber to install an AG DRAIN (slotted flexible drainage pipe) at the lowest point of the retaining wall. Ensure proper water flow away from the rebate/footing. Incorrect installation can lead to water ponding and compromised membrane.

12 MONITOR BACKFILLING

Be present during the backfilling process with crushed rock and soil to ensure no damage occurs. Sufficient crushed rock and topsoil should allow proper water flow to the AG drain. If damage occurs, stop the process and repair the membrane correctly.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Waterproofing retaining walls involves risks related to safety and access. Take your time and prioritize safety. If you feel uncertain or unsafe, do not attempt the job. Consult with an **ATECH®** representative for guidance on using their waterproofing products. Consider a staged approach for easy access and ensure the natural ground is stable and excavated at a 45-degree angle away from the wall.