

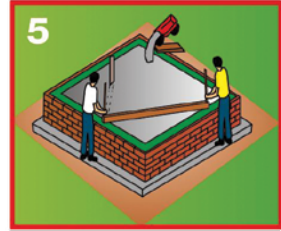
FREE

05

**Build it**

**BACKFILING, USB & SLAB Cont...**

Mix concrete for the slab and pour onto the USB, starting furthest from the mixing point. Level the concrete to the top of the walls using a straight board as shown. Clean excess concrete off the top of the foundation wall, ready to receive the DPC layer.



**PLAN YOUR NEXT D.I.Y. PROJECT RIGHT FROM THE START.**

These Build It D.I.Y. brochures have been compiled especially for you to help you through every step of your home D.I.Y. projects.

We've given you expert advice on what materials you'll need and step-by-step instructions on how to get the job done right, first time.

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**FOUNDATIONS:  
BRICKWORK, BACKFILLING,  
USB & SLAB**



After the concrete base has set, take some time to mark the position of the walls and establish the corner posts against which the foundation walls will be built. This step is important to make sure the footings are level and in the correct place for the building. Backfilling and laying of the USB is important to ensure that the slab is of the correct thickness and waterproofed.

## TOOLS REQUIRED

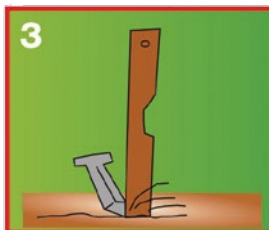
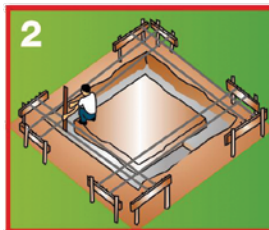
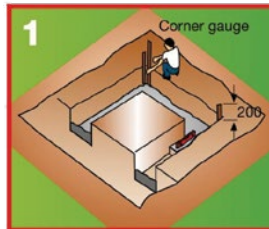
- Spirit Level
- String / Nylon
- Spade
- Hammer
- Square
- Compactor
- Brick Course Gauge
- Wooden Straight Edge
- Wheelbarrow
- Pick

## FOUNDATION BRICKWORK

Find the corner with the highest foundation level. Put a peg in at this part, making sure it is long enough to extend 200mm above ground level. Mark brick courses on this peg with a **course gauge**. Put pegs in all other corners in the same way making sure they are all level with the first peg. (Use a water gauge to check the level).

Put strings back onto the nails marking the wall position.

Mark the wall position on the foundation concrete, using the strings as a reference and a spirit level to ensure the position is correct. A chalk line can be used to mark the position once two ends are marked.

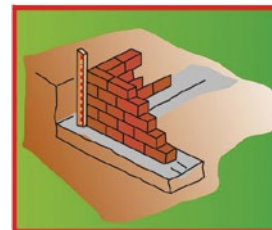
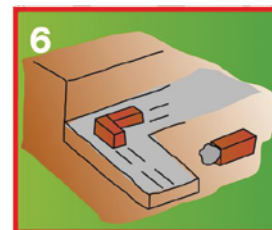
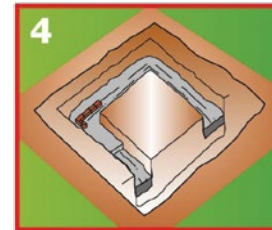


## FOUNDATION BRICKWORK Cont...

Remove the strings and use a chisel to mark the chalk line into the concrete.

Lay bricks dry on the concrete foundation from a corner. Check that joints are 10mm apart and mark the concrete accordingly. Remove bricks, lay a bed of mortar and set bricks as marked, making sure joints are 10mm apart. Build up corners, making sure courses are level and plumb.

Build up all corners, making sure each corner is level with the others by checking against the corner pegs. When corners are complete build the walls between the corner sections to 200mm above ground level. Some sections may be higher.



## BACKFILING, USB & SLAB

When foundation walls are set, start backfilling with rubble and sand. Make sure the fill is compacted and does not contain vegetation. Use water to ensure compaction. Backfill to 120mm below wall level.

Lay a 20mm layer of sand (sifted) over backfill before laying USB. Note : If foundation filling needs to be treated for termites, it must be done at this stage. Start laying USB over sand layer.

USB must cover the sides and go halfway over the foundation wall. Tuck USB into corners, hold into position with bricks. All overlaps must be 300mm and should be folded and sealed with jointing tape.

Any electrical conducting or plumbing must be put into position before the slab is poured. Consult the electrician or plumber. Plug ends of all piping to ensure concrete cannot get in. All fabric reinforcement must be set above USB before the concrete is poured.

