PREMIER™ WALL SERIES
from Rockwood Retaining Walls

Facts, Figures & Insight from the Field

What about the extra cost of core fill material?

Installing Premier wall units does require additional core fill material vs a solid block installation. So how much additional fill do you need, how much does it cost and how should you alter your bidding? Let's dig deeper.

How much drain rock will I need?

Drain rock is typically calculated in cubic feet per square foot of wall face, then converted to cubic yards for ordering.

For a Premier wall, the drainage zone includes two components:

1. Drain rock behind the block (typically about 12″ thick)
2. Stone in the block cores and adjacent void spaces

Step 1: Determine cubic feet of backfill required per square foot of wall

Component	Volume per sq ft of wall
Drain Rock Behind Block (1 ft Behind Wall)	1.0 cu ft
Core Fill and adjacent voids for Premier	0.6 cu ft
Total	**1.6 cu ft per sq ft**

Step 2: Multiply by wall size
For a 250 sq ft wall:

250 sq ft x 1.6 cu ft of fill/sq ft = 400 cubic feet of drain rock

Step 3: Convert cubic feet to cubic yards
Since rock is typically purchased by the cubic yard, divide by 27:

400 cu ft of rock/27 = 14.8 cubic yards

A 250 sq ft Premier wall requires about

14.8 cu/yds

of drain rock

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How does that compare to a solid block system?

A solid block system still requires drainage stone behind the wall, but it does not have the additional core fill volume.

For a solid block system, the estimate might look like this:

Component	Volume per sq ft of wall
Drain Rock Behind Block	1.0 cu ft
Small gaps between blocks	0.15 cu ft
Total	**1.15 cu ft per sq ft**

Multiply by wall size

250 x 1.15 = 287.5 cubic feet

Convert to cubic yards

287.5/27 = 10.6 cubic yards

Comparable Solid Block Wall

10.6 cu/yds

of drain rock

What is the difference in material?

A solid block system still requires drainage stone behind the wall, but it does not have the additional core fill volume. A 250 sq ft wall built with premier will require approximately 4 additonal cu yds of fill

What does that mean in cost?

Drain rock is usually purchased by the ton. Typical conversion:
1 cubic yard of drainage = 1.3 - 1.4 tons

So the additional **4 cubic yards equals** roughly:

4 x 1.3 = 5.2 tons

If rock costs about $30 per ton, then the additional material cost is roughly:

5.2 addiitonal tons x $30/ton = $156-$180

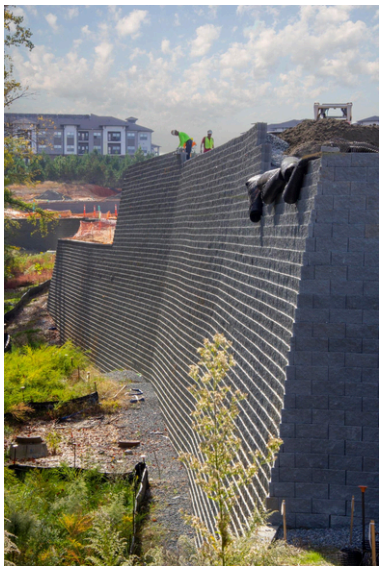
How does that affect my bid?

While Premier walls require a little more drain rock, there are several practical efficiencies that can offset that cost:

- Fewer pallets of block required
  - Lower pallet deposit costs
  - Less job-site staging space needed
- Reduced freight with fewer trucks and delivery handling
- Less lifting for installers

In the example above, the wall required about eight fewer pallets of block, which alone can save roughly $200 in pallet deposits.

Additionally, installers would handle about 7,500 pounds less block weight on that same 250 sq ft wall.



Bottom line

Yes, Premier blocks require a few extra cubic yards of drain rock, but the cost difference is typically small in the context of the overall wall project.

And in many cases, the additional rock cost is offset by:

- Fewer pallets
- Reduced deliveries and freight charges
- Easier job-site logistics
- Reduced lifting and installation fatigue

The result is a wall system that maintains excellent drainage and structural performance while remaining competitive to bid.