HOW TO BUILD A DRY LAID FIELDSTONE RETAINING WALL

¾" Crushed Stone

Crushed stone is needed behind and below your fieldstone wall. This crushed stone is important so that water will not be trapped behind the stone wall. The crushed stone ensures that the wall will make it through the winter freeze and thaw cycles without shifting. Approximately one ton of crushed stone will be needed for every three tons of fieldstone used.

Prepare The Base

- **It is important that a fieldstone retaining wall be build on undisturbed soil.** Remove 12 inches of earth below grade. Be sure that this area is flat and level. This will provide a proper footing for an average size wall.
- **Begin to lay out fieldstone below grade.** Lay 6 inches of stone. Use largest stones for good base stability. For an average width of 18 inches (wall height no greater than four feet), lay stone approximately 2 feet wide at the base.
- **Fill in with crushed stone.** Be sure to fill behind wall with crushed stone throughout build out.

Lay The Wall

- **Stagger the joints.** As wall is being laid, ensure that joints are staggered. This will give the wall a professionally finished look.
- **Create a "batter".** Be sure to create a "batter" during build out. For every 12 inches of height, lean the wall back 1 inch. This is essential in order to create a sturdy wall.
- **Fill in with crushed stone.** Again be sure to fill behind wall with crushed stone during the build out process.

Cap The Wall

- **Use large, heavy stones to cap your wall.** This will ensure that stones will not shift.
- **End at finished grade.** The top of wall should end at the finished grade. This will allow heavy rains to run over the top of the wall.

Maintenance

- If holes develop behind capstones, fill in with crushed stone and earth. These holes are due to the natural settling process.