

City of Salem, Virginia
Office of Community Development
Building Inspections

Retaining Wall Guidelines and Requirements

Must comply with 2015 Virginia Construction Code – Section 1807.2

<u>Height of Retaining Wall</u>	<u>Site Plan Required</u>	<u>Permit Required</u>
2 – 4 Feet	Yes	No
Greater than 4 Feet to 6 Feet	Yes	Yes*
Greater than 6 Feet to 10 Feet	Yes	Yes*
Greater than 10 Feet	Yes	Yes**

* Standard manufacturer designs are acceptable for walls up to 6 feet in height or fill. Walls exceeding six feet in height are required to bear the stamp of a Virginia Registered Design Professional.

** Walls exceeding 10 feet in height or unbalanced fill are required to bear the stamp of a Virginia Registered Design Professional and the requirements of the Special Inspections Program.

Minimum Design Plan Information:

- Minimum scale ¼ inch=1foot; all dimensions must be shown.
- Specifications for construction materials.
- Specifications for the backfill material and compaction requirements.
- Wall elevations and multiple cross sections of each retaining wall, to include structural details. The actual ground slope at the top and the toe of the retaining wall.
- Bearing capacity of the foundation soil.
- Method for drainage.
- Plans indicating walls which extend across multiple properties must include a description of provisions to be made to provide access and maintenance of the wall.