



Retaining Wall Inspection Requirements

Version 2009-12-12

No permit or inspections are required on retaining walls supporting less than two feet of unbalanced fill. This exemption shall not apply to any wall impounding Class I, II, or III-A liquids or supporting a surcharge other than ordinary unbalanced fill.

1. Definitions:

A. **Wall Height:** Wall height is the measurement from the grade level in front of the wall at a given location to the grade level behind the wall at the same cross section. In case of a tiered wall system, this measurement is from the grade level in front of the lowest wall to the highest wall at a given cross section.

B. **Tiered Wall:** When several small height walls are constructed to replace one high wall along a given cross section, these walls will be considered to act together as one wall if the horizontal distance between adjacent walls is less than two times the height of the wall at the lower elevation.

Note: If the spacing between the walls is greater than two times the height of the wall at the lower elevation, each wall will be considered to act independently and will be treated as a separate wall and a separate permit shall be obtained for each wall.

The following schedule of inspections will be required on all other retaining walls, proposed for construction, in the County. Item A inspections will be performed by a County inspector, or if the owner chooses, by an [approved third party engineer](#). Item B inspections will be [mandatory third party inspections managed by the Special Inspections Section](#). Inspections will be performed by an approved third party engineer. Item C inspections shall be under the [Special Inspections Program](#). Final Inspections of wall is performed by the County and certificate of use & occupancy will be issued.

<p>A. Greater than 2’ to 4’ high walls</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Footing (101)* 2. Backfill (104)* 3. Final inspection (118)* 	<p>B. Greater than 4’ to less than 8’ high walls</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Footing. 2. Drainage system. 3. Controlled fill. 4. Structural components. 5. Layout. 6. Final Inspection.
<p>C. 8’ and higher walls or walls categorized as complex structures, e.g. 4’ and higher walls with up-slope and/or down-slope steeper than 1:3 or carrying any other surcharge</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Footing. 2. Drainage system. 3. Controlled fill. 4. Structural components. 5. Layout 6. Final Inspection. 	

* The numbers in parentheses are inspection codes.