

	Wall Height	Engineer Design Required	Concrete Only (see note 3 below)	Approved Materials other than Wood	Approved Materials including Wood	Permit Required
Requirements for Walls Supporting Permanent Construction (see note 1 below)	Less than 2 ft.	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
	2 ft. to 3.99 ft.	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
	4 ft. and greater	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Requirements for Walls Not Supporting Permanent Construction (see note 1 below)	Less than 2 ft.	No	No	No	Yes	No
	2 ft. to 3.99 ft.	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
	4 ft. and greater	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes

TABLE 1

REQUIREMENTS FOR
NEW OR RECONSTRUCTED RETAINING WALLS

1. For the purposes of Table 1, the following shall apply:
 - A. Permanent construction is defined as any construction that requires a building permit from the City.
 - B. The retaining wall is assumed to support permanent construction if the setback from the top of the wall to the permanent construction is less than 1.5 times the height of the wall, unless a geotechnical report prepared by a licensed engineer states that a structure closer to the wall does not bear on the wall.
 - C. A multi-tier wall shall be considered a single wall if the base of the upper wall is set back from the top of the lower wall less than 1.5 times the height of the lower wall.
2. When an engineered design is required, the building permit shall include a copy of the sealed, signed, and dated design from the engineer. When a building permit is required, but an engineered design is not, the owner shall provide construction drawings indicating the location, height, and material of the retaining wall.
3. Prefabricated concrete products may be used upon approval of the Building Official.