

Retaining Wall Guide (Residential)

GENERAL INFORMATION

All retaining walls, or any portion thereof, shall be **located entirely on the applicable parcel**, and shall **not be located within any Right-of-Way, Easement or Covenant area**.

All retaining walls must conform to the maximum fence height in SECTION 6.10 of BYLAW 4500. For further information, please contact the City of Nanaimo **Current Planning section** at **250-755-4429**. For all **Single Family Residential Zones** the maximum fence heights are:

- Front yard = 1.2 m (3.94 ft)
- Side & rear yard = 2.4 m (7.87 ft)
- Flanking street side yard = 1.8 m (5.90 ft)

Where a guardrail is required by the *BC Building Code*, the minimum required guardrail is not included in the calculation of fence height.

All retaining walls **require a building permit** when they are greater than 1.2 m (4.0 ft) in height.

All retaining walls **require a building permit** when they **support ground** that is **critical to the stability of building foundations**. [See BCBC 2018 A-9.3.2.9(4)]

CONCRETE RETAINING WALLS

Concrete retaining walls **require a building permit** and **Structural Engineer's certification** when they are greater than 1.2 m (4.0 ft) in height.

INTERLOCKING BLOCK RETAINING WALLS

Interlocking block retaining walls **require a building permit** and **Geotechnical Engineer's certification** when required by manufacturer's specifications or when they are greater than 1.2 m (4.0 ft) in height, whichever is lower.

WOOD RETAINING WALLS

All wood retaining walls & cribbing **must be pressure-treated** and **require a building permit** and **Geotechnical Engineer's certification** when:

- they support ground that is critical to the stability of building foundations (regardless of height) [See BCBC 2018 A-9.3.2.9(4).], or,
- they are greater than 1.2 m (4.0 ft) in height.

OTHER TYPES OF RETAINING WALLS

For all other types of retaining walls, please confirm with Building Inspections as to whether a building permit is required.