



**Snohomish County**  
Planning and Development  
Services

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ONLINE SUBMITTAL

[www.snohomishcountywa.gov/1190](http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/1190)



This Assistance Bulletin only applies to property within unincorporated Snohomish County and does not apply to property within incorporated city limits.

Assistance Bulletin

#40

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[WWW.SNOCO.ORG](http://WWW.SNOCO.ORG)

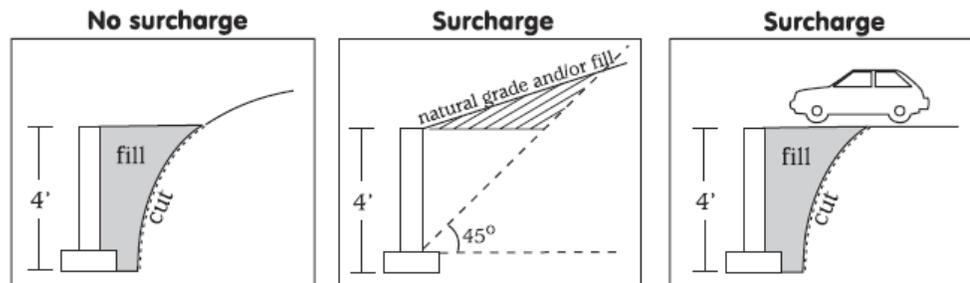
Keyword: Assistance Bulletins

**Q:** What is a retaining wall?

**A:** A wall designed to resist the lateral displacement of soil or other materials.

**Q:** Do I need a building permit to build a retaining wall?

**A:** Possibly. Building permits are required for any retaining wall that exceeds 4 feet in height (as measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall). Engineered plans will be required. Building permits also are required for any retaining wall 4 feet or less in height that supports a surcharge (any additional load bearing on or against the wall, such as fill material) behind or above the wall. Engineered plans also will be required.



**Q:** How do I get a building permit for my retaining wall?

**A:** Applications for retaining walls are now submitted by visiting [MyBuildingPermit.com](http://MyBuildingPermit.com). Please use the following path:

Application Type: Building  
Project Type: Single Family Residential  
Activity Type: Exterior Alteration  
Scope of Work: Retaining Wall

**Q:** How much does the permit cost?

**A:** The plan review fee and permit fee will be determined by fair market valuation of the retaining wall. The plan review fees will be collected when you submit your plans. After the plans have been reviewed and approved, the building permit will be issued and all related permit fees will be collected.

This bulletin is intended only as an information guide. The information may not be complete and is subject to change. For complete legal information, refer to Snohomish County Code.