



Bountiful City Building Department

795 South Main Street

Bountiful, Utah 84010

801-298-6125 | www.bountifulutah.gov

RETAINING WALL PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

From the Bountiful City Code:

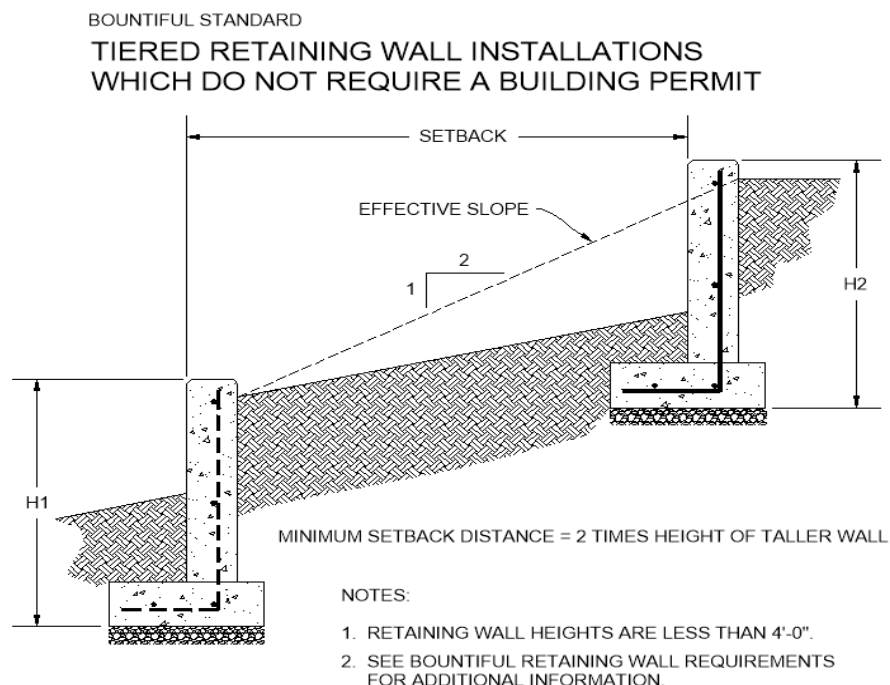
4-5-109 Retaining Walls

- (a) No retaining wall which is four feet tall or taller shall be constructed without a permit issued by the City.
 - (1) This requirement includes all conventional cantilever concrete retaining walls as well as nonconventional wall systems such as reinforced earth structures, rock retained slopes, etc.
 - (2) Wall systems four feet tall or taller which are based on organic material such as treated lumber or railroad ties are not allowed.
- (b) It is unlawful for any property owner to construct, or to have constructed by another, any retaining wall four feet tall or taller without first obtaining a permit from the City, or to construct or have constructed a wall in violation of subsection (1)(b).
- (c) It is unlawful for any contractor or other person to construct any retaining wall four feet tall or taller for which a permit has not been issued by the City, or to construct a wall in violation of subsection (1)(b).
- (d) To obtain a permit for a retaining wall, the following shall be submitted to the Bountiful City Engineering Department for review:
 - (1) An engineered wall design stamped by a civil, structural or geotechnical engineer registered to perform work in the State of Utah. The design shall be specific to the site and not a generic standard design.

- (2) A site plan showing the extent of cuts or fills that will be included with the wall. The City may in its discretion require that the site plan be certified by a registered surveyor or engineer.
- (e) All retaining walls four feet tall or taller must be inspected by the City. Prior to final inspection of the wall by the City, the contractor shall submit to the Bountiful City Building Official a complete set of inspection reports by the engineer of record certifying that the engineer has personally inspected all aspects and phases of the wall's construction.
- (f) Retaining wall permits are subject to the same bonding requirement as any other building permit. Cash bonds will be returned when the work is satisfactorily completed and inspected, the engineer's certifications have been submitted and reviewed, and any damaged public improvements (sidewalk, curb, gutter, etc.) have been repaired.

Other Requirements for Retaining Walls:

- Retaining walls which are less than 4'-0" in height are generally considered landscaping elements. When these retaining walls are constructed in multiple tiers with setback(s) between walls less than 2 times the height of the taller wall (up to 8 ft), **a building permit is required.** Final construction should result in a 2 (horizontal): 1(vertical) slope for these installation conditions.



2. If a retaining wall (less than 4 ft tall) is subjected to an external load (such as a footing or a parking area), an engineered design ***may*** be required. Review with the Bountiful Engineering and Building Department.
3. Retaining wall height is measured from the bottom of the lowest element in the retaining structure, i.e. the bottom of a footing or the bottom of a boulder.
4. When a building permit is not required but more than 10 cubic yards of dirt will be moved for construction, **a grading permit is required.**
5. Unloading or storing construction materials or dumpsters in the public right-of-way is not permitted. Materials are to be unloaded and stored on private property.
6. Retaining wall permits are issued as separate permits and are not included in permits for new homes, remodels, additions, etc.



BOUNTIFUL

City of Beautiful HOMES AND GARDENS

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EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 28, 1998

All retaining walls constructed in the city of Bountiful that are four feet tall or taller must have a permit issued per the Uniform Building Code prior to construction. This requirement shall include all conventional cantilever concrete retaining walls, as well as non-conventional wall systems such as reinforced earth structures, rock retained slopes, etc. **NOTE: WALL SYSTEMS BASED ON ORGANIC MATERIAL SUCH AS TREATED LUMBER OR RAIL ROAD TIES ARE NOT ALLOWED.**

To obtain a permit, the following shall be submitted to the Bountiful City Engineering Department for review.

1. An engineered design stamped by a civil, structural or geotechnical engineer registered to perform work in the state of Utah. The design shall be specific to the site and not a generic standard design. Geotechnical reports and/or slope stability calculations shall be included as needed or if deemed necessary by the Building Official.
2. A site plan showing the extent of cuts or fills that will be included with the wall. The City may require that the site plan be certified by a Registered Surveyor or Engineer.

Prior to final inspection of the wall the contractor shall submit to the Bountiful City Building Official a complete set of inspection reports by the engineer of record certifying that he has personally inspected all aspects and phases of the wall's construction.

All retaining wall permits are also subject to the same bonding requirements as any other building permit. The cash bond will be returned when the work is complete, Engineer's Certifications have been submitted and reviewed, and any damaged public improvements (sidewalk, curb and gutter, etc.) are repaired.