



**City of Arlington**  
Community and Economic  
Development

Office Hours:  
Monday - Friday  
8:00am - 12:00pm  
1:00pm - 5:00pm



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This Assistance Bulletin only  
applies to properties within  
Arlington City Limits

[www.arlingtonwa.gov](http://www.arlingtonwa.gov)  
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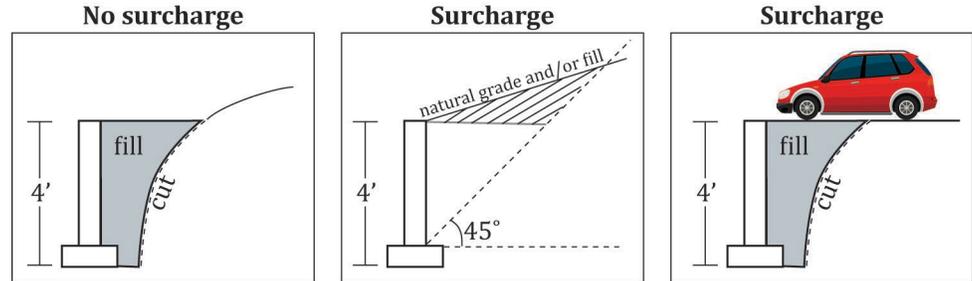
# RETAINING WALLS #33

**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 to build a retaining wall?

**A:** Applications for retaining wall are available for online submittal at [Building Permit Applications](#)  
Application Type: Residential Miscellaneous Application

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

**A:** The permit fee will be determined by fair market valuation of the retaining wall. The permit fees will be collected at the time your permit is issued.