



Residential Retaining Walls Permits and Exceptions

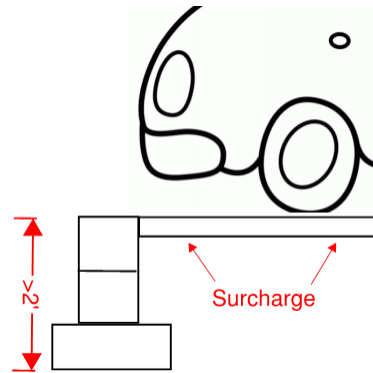
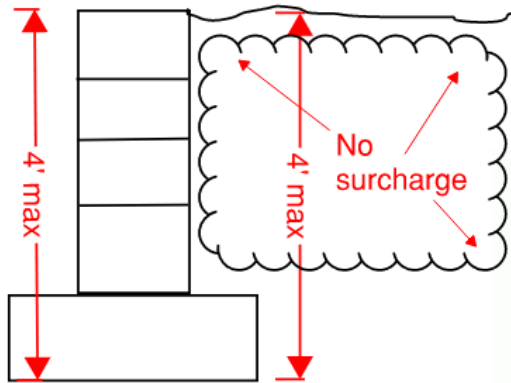
Bulletin #78

For 2018 International Codes

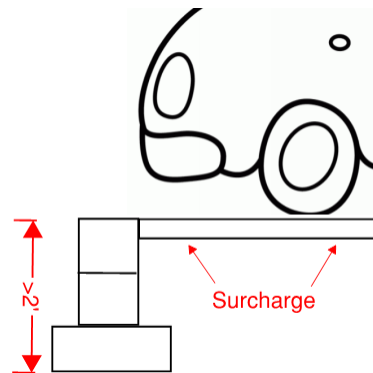
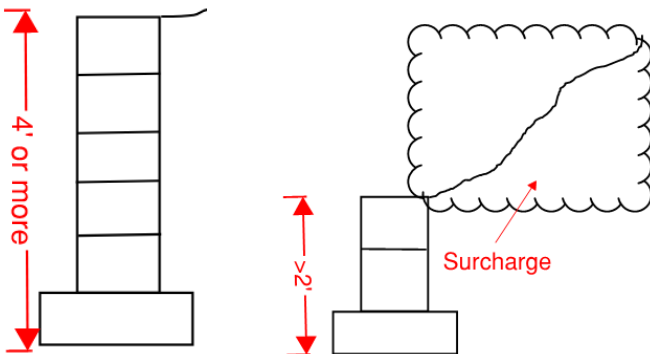
Retaining walls over 4' in height require permitting.

Exempt: Retaining walls not over 4 feet tall, measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall are exempt from permit, *unless supporting a surcharge* that is within a 45-degree angle of the bottom of the footing. Retaining walls less than 2 feet tall are exempt from permits, regardless of surcharge.

No permit required:



Requires a permit:



Retaining walls requiring permit must have site specific plans professionally designed by a WA State Registered Engineer.

NOTE: All retaining walls must be properly drained; International Residential Code, Section R404.4