

Retaining Wall

REQUIREMENTS



416 West Broadway Ave.
Maryville, TN 37801
(865) 273- 3500

1. Retaining walls require an engineered design by a Tennessee registered engineer which must be submitted to the City of Maryville Codes Enforcement Department prior to permit approval. The design shall conform to good engineering practice. Exception: Retaining walls with less than 4 feet at every point in vertical distance between the upper and lower grade levels do not require an engineered design unless there is a surcharge load.
2. A City of Maryville Engineer or City of Maryville Codes Official may reject proposed retaining wall designs when existing conditions (such as sight distance, drainage, safety, etc.) deem rejection necessary.
3. A final inspection is required by a Tennessee registered engineer (preferably the design engineer) whom shall submit to the City of Maryville Codes Enforcement Department a stamped letter indicating that the structure was properly built and is structurally stable. Acceptance shall be given by the inspecting engineer.
4. A retaining wall footing inspection, with reinforcing steel in place, must be conducted by the City of Maryville Codes Enforcement Department before placement of forms or concrete.
5. A retaining wall permit, grading permit and erosion control measure are required.
6. Retaining wall permits is not required for projects with building permits and the retaining wall is integral with the building structure.
7. Retaining wall greater than 30 inches vertically between the upper and lower grade requires a guardrail if there is a walking surface within 3 feet horizontally of the top of the wall. Openings in the guardrail must reject a 4 inch sphere and the guardrail must extend at least 42 inches (36 inches for projects within the scope of the IRC) above the upper grade level walking surface.
8. A retaining wall may be placed adjacent to property line if total wall height from the lower grade does not exceed 6 feet.
9. If retaining wall is placed closer than 5 feet to a property line or is in an easement it shall be the owner's responsibility and expense to remove and reconstruct when the 5 foot area or easement is utilized for any purpose by any entity at any time in the future. Permits and inspections will be required for replacement of said removed retaining wall regardless of the entity removing it or the purpose for which it is removed.
10. Retaining walls greater than 6 feet high from the lower grade level must meet all accessory building rear and side yard setbacks.

