

# RESIDENTIAL RETAINING WALLS

The City of Clayton regulates the construction of residential retaining walls to ensure the use of high quality design and materials.



## Permits and Approvals

The Zoning Regulations require that all new front yard walls receive approval from the Architectural Review Board before construction, whether or not a building permit is required. Replacement walls in the front yard do not require Architectural Review Board approval if the height and extent of the wall is substantially similar to the existing and an allowable material is used.

A building permit is required for any new retaining wall 48-inches or taller as measured from the bottom of the foundation/footing to the top of the wall. Retaining walls less than 48-inches, that are subject to traffic (live load) surcharges, such as driveways and/or parking surfaces require a building permit.

Whether or not a building permit is required, prior to installation of any new or expanded retaining wall, documentation must be submitted to the City confirming that the property will not exceed the allowable impervious coverage limits (55 percent of the total lot area, 45 percent of the required front yard).

## Design and Materials

The Architectural Review Guidelines limit new retaining wall materials to brick, stone, or stucco to match the main structure. Modular block walls are also permitted if they contain three different block sizes, a varying color pattern, and tumbled or rolled edges. Products which meet this criteria include but are not limited to Belgard Celtik, Versa-lok Mosaic (Weathered series), Anchor Highland Stone, Keystone Country Cottage & Country Manor.

## Permitted Modular Block



3 different  
block sizes

Varying color  
pattern

Tumbled/rolled  
edges

## Prohibited Modular Block



1 block size

1 color

Straight edges

For more information, contact Kathy Scott

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Department of Planning & Development Services

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