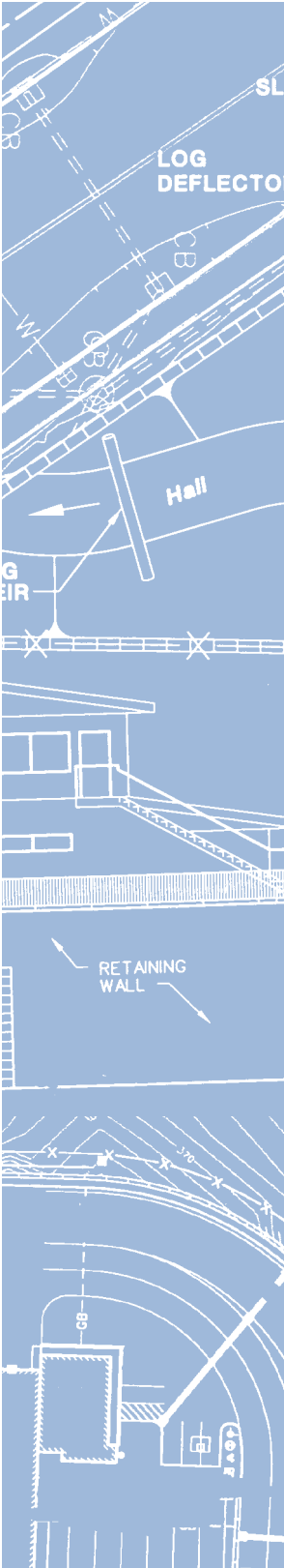




# Retaining Walls #40

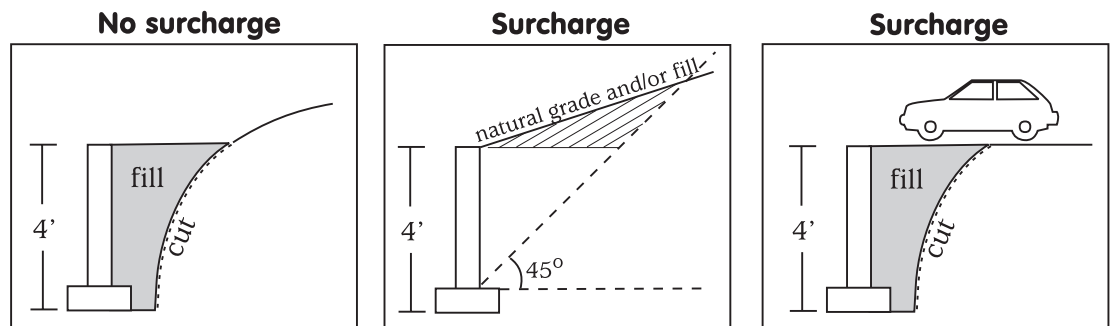


**Q:** What is a retaining wall?

**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 for my retaining wall?

**A:** You will need two sets of plans of the retaining wall, showing the construction of the wall. You will also need a site plan showing the location of the retaining wall on the property. Contact PDS counter personnel at 425-388-3311 for information regarding site plan submittal requirements.

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

**A:** The plan review fee and permit fee will be determined by fair market valuation of the retaining wall. The plan review fees will be collected when you submit your plans. After the plans have been reviewed and approved, the building permit will be issued and all related permit fees will be collected.

*This bulletin is intended only as an information guide. The information may not be complete and is subject to change. For complete legal information, refer to the Snohomish County Code.*