



CITY OF DANA POINT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, BUILDING AND SAFETY

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B015 – SURCHARGE

2022 CALIFORNIA CODES
CODE CYCLE

01/02/2023
EFFECTIVE DATE

RETAINING WALL SURCHARGE

A “surcharge” on a retaining wall is any load in addition to level grade, within that area defined by a 45 degree angle from the bottom of the footing to level grade. See hatched “Surcharge Area” shown below. Examples of a surcharge may be a building or structure, fence, driveway, or slope above level grade, within the hatched “Surcharge Area” shown in the figures below.

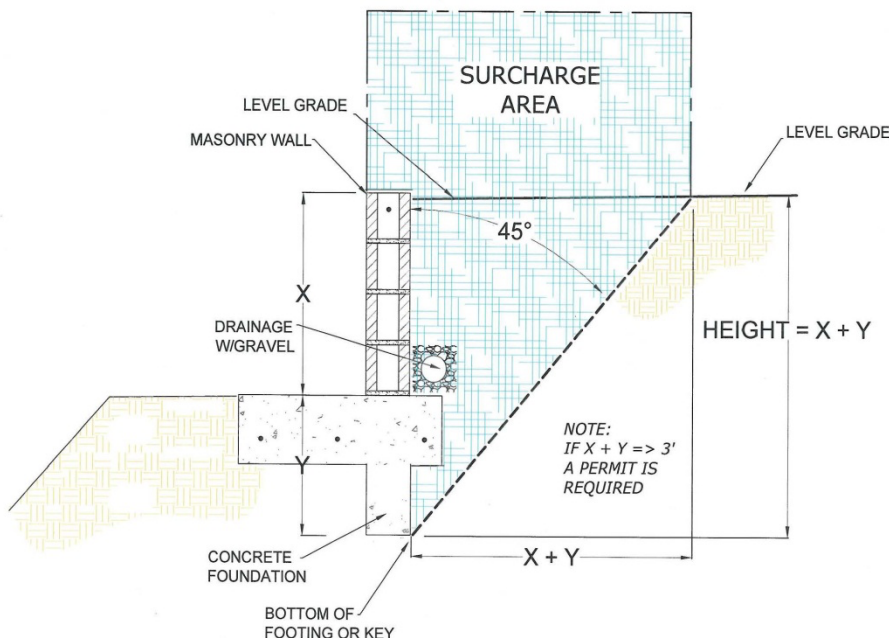
Because of the varying soils conditions throughout the City, all retaining walls over 3 feet, measured from the bottom of the footing, are required to have a building permit.

Walls supporting any surcharge require an engineered design along with architectural plans, structural calculations and a soils report prepared by a licensed design professional.

Walls constructed using the City of Dana Point retaining wall standard plan, shall not support a surcharge load of any kind.

Section 105.2 of the 2022 California Building Code, as adopted by the City of Dana Point, exempts a retaining wall from a building permit provided:

- It is not over 3 feet in height measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall.
- It does not support a surcharge.
- It does not impound Class I, II, or IIIA liquids.



If you have any questions regarding your specific retaining wall project, please contact Building Division at (949) 248-3594 or you may visit the Development Services Counter at City Hall.

SURCHARGE AREA = WALL
HEIGHT (X) + FOOTING DEPTH (Y)