

Retaining Wall Permit Requirements:

A permit application is required for all retaining walls. If a retaining wall is 4 feet (4') or taller (measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall), or if it supports a surcharge or impounds Class I, II, or IIIA liquids, it must be designed by a Registered South Carolina Professional Engineer, whether the wall is site-built or modular.

During construction or installation, a Registered South Carolina Professional Engineer must inspect the work at designated stages. The inspector will certify that the work complies with the approved plan and the SC State Building Code. The completed Special Inspection Form must be uploaded to Evolve before a Certificate of Completion is issued for the related project. Third-party inspections are in addition to the standard footing and formwork inspections prior to pouring concrete. For segmented walls, a footing inspection is required before laying the wall segments to ensure proper wall placement.

Please submit the following documents to Evolve:

The proposed retaining wall plan and specifications, the approved Site Plan showing the location of each retaining wall requiring a permit. The Site Plan must specify the elevation at the top of each wall and the bottom of each footing. We will need structural details for each footing and wall, and soil parameters used in the wall design, including:

- A. Materials
- B. Dimensions
- C. Reinforcement
- D. Concrete design strength
- E. Drainage methods for hydrostatic pressure relief
- F. Backfill material specifications
- G. Slope of finished grades
- H. For modular walls, include details of the types, spacing, and embedment length of all geogrid reinforcement
- I. Soil bearing pressure
- J. Equivalent lateral fluid pressure (active and passive)

K. Surcharge load

L. Internal angle of friction

M. Coefficient of friction

O. Soil density

Calculations, signed and sealed by a Registered South Carolina Professional Engineer, demonstrating the structural adequacy of each proposed wall to resist the applicable design loads, within the specified allowable soil bearing pressure, and ensuring a minimum safety factor of 1.5 against overturning and sliding.

The name, address, contact information, and SCLLR License number of the licensed Third-Party Inspector, along with the inspection frequency as established by the Engineer.