Retaining walls

Information sheet and checklist
Retaining walls

Minimum requirement for building work without a building permit

• Not closer to the boundary than its ultimate height (<600mm high);
• Not closer to any building than its ultimate height (<600mm high);
• Not associated with protection work of an adjoining property;
• Not associated with other building work (not a part of any other structure);
• Less than one metre high;
• Not over an easement;
• All work must be of sound construction and drainage to legal point of discharge; and,
• Recommend that engineer’s constructional design be sought for all retaining walls.
Requirements for a building permit

- Site Plan showing the location of the wall (where it will be situated on the block of land) and the distance to the boundary fence and house;
- Plans to show the height of the wall, whether it is retaining fill or a cut; and
- Plans showing the construction materials, type and size of the footings.

Where a retaining wall is proposed to be constructed more than one metre high and is within one metre of the property boundary (with the angle of repose), a design from a suitably qualified and experienced person will be required.

In some cases, an adjoining land owner is required to be contacted and their comments sought on the proposed works prior to any works commencing. This is done via a protection works notice and response. These forms are available upon request from Wodonga Building Services.

Drainage should be provided at the base of the retaining wall and connected to the stormwater system via a silt pit. The finished soil levels should not direct any surface stormwater to run off into an adjoining property.