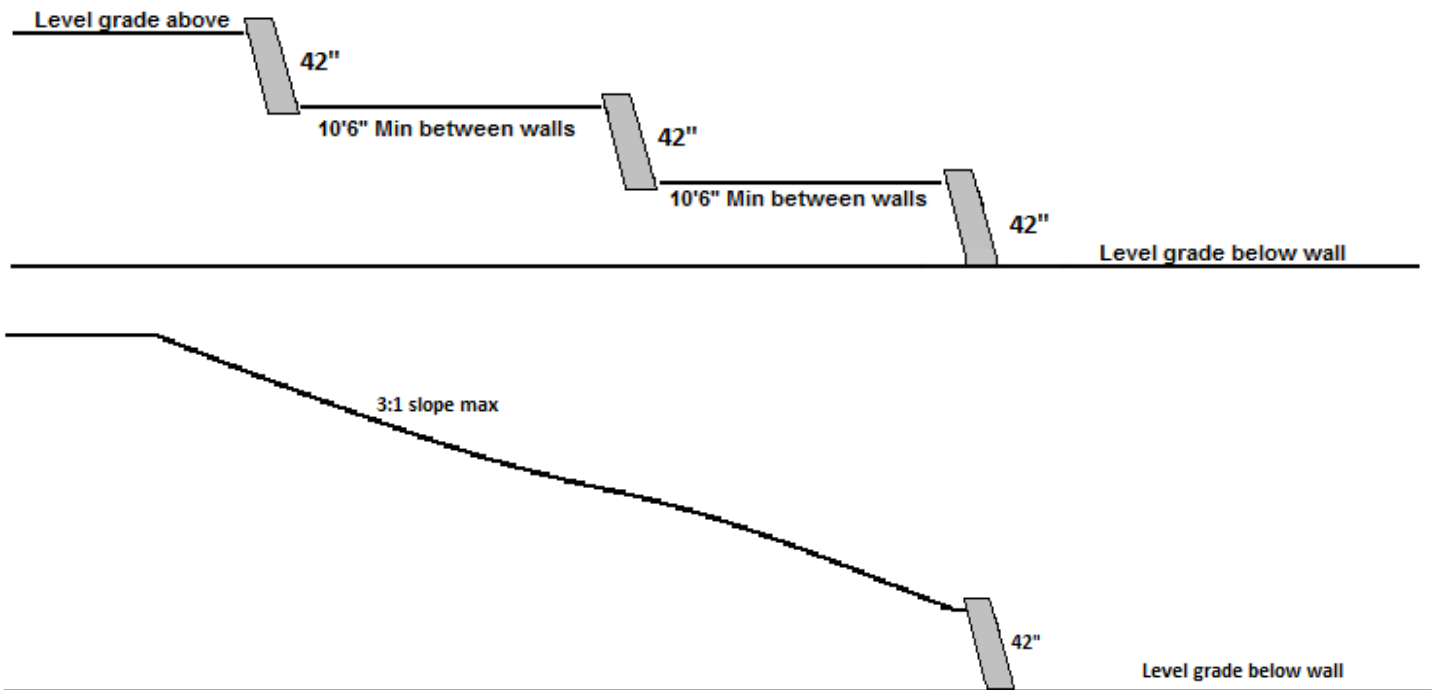




## RETAINING WALLS INCLUDES ROCKERIES, LANDSCAPE BLOCKS, AND SIMILAR RETAINING FEATURES

Retaining walls require permits unless they comply with the following exceptions. The only exceptions are the conditions illustrated in the two figures below. If the retaining wall(s) are constructed to have a 42-inch maximum exposed height above grade with NO slope below the wall(s), and a maximum slope of 3:1 above the wall(s), the retaining wall(s) MAY be exempt from a permit. NOTE: If there is any surcharge above and nearer than 10-foot 6-inches from the wall(s), such as a driveway, an adjacent structure, swimming pool, etc., the exceptions for permit exemptions that are illustrated below DO NOT apply and a permit and engineered design are required.



### Requirements for retaining walls not meeting the above requirements:

Geotechnical Report - A Geotechnical Evaluation Report prepared by a registered design professional shall be provided. It must contain the minimum following information:

- Existing soils types and distribution of existing soils.
- Conclusions and recommendations for construction of the structure in question (house, detached structures, and/or retaining walls), specifically describing that all Appendix J requirements are being met.
- Soil design criteria for any structures (walls, etc.) or embankments, required to accomplish the proposed grading.
- Slope stability studies and recommendations, specifically describing that all Appendix J requirements are being met, including recommendations and conclusions regarding site geology.
- Liquefaction study (required only where mapped maximum earthquake  $S_s$  is greater than 0.5g).

CONT.

### **Engineering Design for the Retaining Wall (or retaining method)**

Note: A second engineer is required to design the structural retaining wall or retaining method. This second engineer uses the above soils report to design the wall. Another option is also common, where the soils engineer designs the retaining method. Normally, soils engineers focus on rockeries or landscape-type stacked blocks, where a standard engineer focuses on concrete retaining walls or reinforced masonry walls. In either case, the following is needed for the engineered design (in addition to the soils report).

- a. Calculation of the structural wall
- b. Complete details of how to build the wall, including at a minimum, one cross section through the wall and one plan view of the wall
- c. Site plan showing where the wall is being built must be included in the engineer's report at submittal.