



Do you have any certifications related specifically to retaining walls?

Though certifications shouldn't necessarily make or break your choice of landscaping contractor, they can definitely highlight the unique qualifications of a particular team. They also signal that an organization is committed to keeping up with changes in the industry and investing in the specialization of its team members.

NOVA Landscape & Design holds the **Segmental Retaining Wall Installer Certification** administered by the **National Concrete Masonry Association**. The NCMA is an industry leader and the primary information source for concrete masonry professionals. Our certification as a Segmental Retaining Wall Installer ensures that we follow industry-leading installation guidelines and site practices. It also demonstrates our advanced knowledge of material and system component properties, soils and compaction, and the impact of water on your retaining wall project.



Will you secure all the permits required for the project?

When it comes to retaining walls, permitting is especially important. Each county has different height requirements, and many individual municipalities have their own guidelines. It's crucial that you be prepared and protected with all the proper permits before starting your retaining wall project.

The NOVA team is committed to not only executing a seamless project, but also to making the whole process as easy as possible for you. In addition to researching and securing all required permits, we'll also prepare an HOA packet (when applicable) to demonstrate compliance with all HOA guidelines, design requirements, and restrictions.

How will you anchor or stabilize the retaining wall?

Ensuring long-term stability is a crucial component of any retaining wall project. Resistance to cracking, bowing, leaning, and sagging should be planned into your project from the beginning. Don't consider a quote from a potential contractor who gives you an estimate before analyzing your property first-hand. You don't have to become an expert in stabilization methods (there are many!) to make the right decision, but do make sure you understand how your proposed wall can be expected to stand up to the ever-changing forces of earth and weather – and for how long.

What technical considerations will go into planning my wall?

Stabilization isn't the only factor that makes designing and installing a retaining wall a technical affair, so you'll want to find out what other specifics of your property will impact your design.

Base Preparation

Consider what's going on behind and below the wall. From what will the base be constructed? The more surface contact and friction, the better. Also, the buried part of your wall should extend below the surface at least one-tenth of the total height to ensure soil retention.

Stepped-Back Materials

Your wall should push back against the fill it's designed to retain, so it should not be built on a perfect vertical. If you want that polished vertical look, be sure to discuss retaining wall systems which build in step-back without compromising appearance.

Proper Drainage

Well-built walls are graded to prevent water getting behind them and to provide a speedy exit for moisture that does manage to get in. Layers of packed soil, gravel, & drain tile can guide water away from your wall. In extreme cases, piping may be required.