

**10-01-08**

**NEWS FROM THE BUILDING INSPECTIONS**

City of Winston-Salem

The following information is provided from Building Department of the City of Winston-Salem.

Information and questions from builders:

**RETAINING WALLS, FENCES AND SOLID WALLS—**

**FENCES AND SOLID WALLS:**

**1. COMMERCIAL-**

Permits are required for any solid or wall over six (6) feet in height. Seven sets of sealed, engineered plans and site plans are required. Plans and application should be submitted for commercial plan review.

**2. RESIDENTIAL-**

Permits and Engineered plans are required for any solid fence or wall over six (6) feet in height. Sealed plans must include footing details as well as information on materials and construction (example: wall section). A site plan is not required. File plan with permit.

**NO** permit is required for any non-solid fences, such as chain link, welded wire, and wrought iron or similar, regardless of height, in either commercial or residential application.

**RETAINING WALLS-**

**COMMERCIAL**

- A. A permit is required for a retaining wall if there is four (4) feet or more of unbalanced fill. Engineered plans are required along with a site plan (seven sets of plans are required). Plans and application should be submitted for commercial plan review.
- B. A permit is required if the wall height varies from 2 feet to 10 feet and 50 percent or more is four (4) feet or more of unbalanced fill. Engineered plans are required along with

site plans (seven sets of plans are required). Plans and application should be submitted for commercial plan review.

**404.1.3 Design required** Design in accordance with accepted engineering practice shall be provided for concrete or masonry foundation walls when any of the following conditions exist:

1. Walls are subject to hydrostatic pressure from ground water.
2. Walls supporting more than 48 inches of unbalanced backfill that do not have permanent lateral support at the top and bottom. Included are retaining walls located on residential sites and any retaining wall systems that cross over adjacent property lines regardless of vertical height.
3. Retaining walls that support buildings and their accessory structures.

\*\*\*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\*\*\*

The Winston-Salem Forsyth County Inspections Division will be sponsoring a seminar for Energy Efficient Building Solutions on October 23, 2008 from 1:00 – 5:00 pm at the Ramada Inn, Clemmons, NC. The seminar is being presented by Mathis Consulting Company based in Asheville, NC.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Dan Dockery, Winston-Salem Forsyth County Inspections at 727-2084 or 462-7472. We look forward in hearing from you.