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Some Random Landscape Thoughts



Joshua Mitchell

Retaining walls are often found in places where extra support is needed to prevent the earth from moving downhill with erosion. The most basic function of a retaining wall is to battle gravity. If you're looking to level the contours of a sloped section or to have flat areas for patios and lawns, then you will need a retaining wall.

Make sure to check your local authority's regulations prior to starting work on your retaining wall. In most states, anything over 4 feet in height must be engineered. Once you have your plans, then you will take them to the local building department to get a permit. This type of approval is often required for retaining walls when they are over a specified height, next to a boundary, or supporting a driveway.

The design of any retaining wall should include a drainage system design to prevent hydrostatic pressure building up behind the retaining wall. Poor drainage or no drainage leads to most retaining wall failures. The design of all retaining walls must also consider the soil profile and soil type (clay, gravel or sand). Improperly installed retaining walls can bulge, crack, or lean. This occurs because either the contractor failed to build a strong enough wall to hold back the pressure of the hillside, or no drainage mechanisms were included in the wall's design.

For these reasons, building a retaining wall is one time when it just makes sense to arrange for professional services. Landscaping companies can help you create a retaining wall that will look great and stand up to years of extreme weather.

Happy Landscaping!

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- Outdoor Living Space
- Custom Water Features
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- Fireplaces and Fire Pits
- Irrigation Maintenance
- Pergolas and Decks



Types of Retaining Walls



Gabion Design



Mortared Rock



Corten Steel Veneer



Dry-Stacked Stone



Railway Sleeper



Boulders



Hardwood



Carved Concrete



Bricks



Concrete



Flagstone



Interlocking Blocks