



RETAINING WALL COSTS

Retaining walls are by definition any wall that holds back or retains soil. Typically retaining walls are built for very practical purposes, such as creating a flat area on a sloped parcel or controlling erosion. However, they can also have significant aesthetic appeal and are sometimes built more for ornamentation than function. With these vastly different reasons for construction, limitless size and configuration options, and many available material choices it is not surprising to find that the associated price ranges for retaining walls are broad as well.

The most common materials used in the construction of retaining walls today are interlocking blocks, stone, and poured concrete. Costs will vary depending on materials used and other circumstances -- the ease of access to the site, the slope, the height and width of the wall, soil conditions and similar factors. We have found pricing to generally fall in these ranges:

Precast segmental concrete block - \$18-50 per square foot

Natural stone - \$22-50 per square foot

Poured concrete - \$30-40 per square foot

While square foot pricing has been offered here for you to gauge the “ballpark” price of your project, we do not use a square foot pricing method and recommend you find a contractor that does not sell their services by square foot. A few of the many reasons square foot pricing is not good for you or your contractor follow:

- no installation is ever the same and thus square foot pricing does not easily apply to your unique installation and site conditions
- a wall that is 200 square feet could be 2 ft. high and 100 ft. long or 10 ft. high and 20 ft. long; the later would be significantly more expensive because it would require the services of an engineer and has considerably different backfill and drainage considerations
- with additional square footage comes diminishing mobilization costs and difficulty; in other words, the “first” 100 square feet installed are more expensive than the “last” 100 square feet of a 400 square foot installation.

If you would like additional discussion or information about retaining walls please contact us at (513)821-9407.