

**TABLE R404.1.1(2)
REINFORCED CONCRETE AND MASONRY^a FOUNDATION WALLS**

MAXIMUM WALL HEIGHT (feet)	MAXIMUM UNBALANCED BACKFILL HEIGHT ^e (feet)	MINIMUM VERTICAL REINFORCEMENT SIZE AND SPACING ^{b, c} FOR 8-INCH NOMINAL WALL THICKNESS		
		Soil classes ^d		
		GW, GP, SW and SP soils	GM, GC, SM, SM-SC and ML soils	SC, MH, ML-CL and inorganic CL soils
6	5	#4 at 48" o.c.	#4 at 48" o.c.	#4 at 48" o.c.
	6	#4 at 48" o.c.	#4 at 40" o.c.	#5 at 48" o.c.
7	4	#4 at 48" o.c.	#4 at 48" o.c.	#4 at 48" o.c.
	5	#4 at 48" o.c.	#4 at 48" o.c.	#4 at 40" o.c.
	6	#4 at 48" o.c.	#5 at 48" o.c.	#5 at 40" o.c.
	7	#4 at 40" o.c.	#5 at 40" o.c.	#6 at 48" o.c.
8	5	#4 at 48" o.c.	#4 at 48" o.c.	#4 at 40" o.c.
	6	#4 at 48" o.c.	#5 at 48" o.c.	#5 at 40" o.c.
	7	#5 at 48" o.c.	#6 at 48" o.c.	#6 at 40" o.c.
	8	#5 at 40" o.c.	#6 at 40" o.c.	#6 at 24" o.c.
9	5	#4 at 48" o.c.	#4 at 48" o.c.	#5 at 48" o.c.
	6	#4 at 48" o.c.	#5 at 48" o.c.	#6 at 48" o.c.
	7	#5 at 48" o.c.	#6 at 48" o.c.	#6 at 32" o.c.
	8	#5 at 40" o.c.	#6 at 32" o.c.	#6 at 24" o.c.
	9	#6 at 40" o.c.	#6 at 24" o.c.	#6 at 16" o.c.

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

- a. Mortar shall be Type M or S and masonry shall be laid in running bond.
- b. Alternative reinforcing bar sizes and spacings having an equivalent cross-sectional area of reinforcement per lineal foot of wall shall be permitted provided the spacing of the reinforcement does not exceed 72 inches.
- c. Vertical reinforcement shall be Grade 60 minimum. The distance from the face of the soil side of the wall to the center of vertical reinforcement shall be at least 5 inches.
- d. Soil classes are in accordance with the Unified Soil Classification System. Refer to Table R405.1.
- e. Unbalanced backfill height is the difference in height of the exterior and interior finish ground levels. Where an interior concrete slab is provided, the unbalanced backfill height shall be measured from the exterior finish ground level to the top of the interior concrete slab.

**TABLE R404.1.1(3)
REINFORCED CONCRETE AND MASONRY^a FOUNDATION WALLS**

MAXIMUM WALL HEIGHT (feet)	MAXIMUM UNBALANCED BACKFILL HEIGHT ^e (feet)	VERTICAL REINFORCEMENT SIZE AND SPACING ^{b, c} FOR 12-INCH NOMINAL WALL THICKNESS		
		Soil classes ^d		
		GW, GP, SW and SP soils	GM, GC, SM, SM-SC and ML soils	SC, MH, ML-CL and inorganic CL soils
7	4	#4 at 72" o.c.	#4 at 72" o.c.	#4 at 72" o.c.
	5	#4 at 72" o.c.	#4 at 72" o.c.	#4 at 72" o.c.
	6	#4 at 72" o.c.	#4 at 64" o.c.	#4 at 48" o.c.
	7	#4 at 72" o.c.	#4 at 48" o.c.	#5 at 56" o.c.
8	5	#4 at 72" o.c.	#4 at 72" o.c.	#4 at 72" o.c.
	6	#4 at 72" o.c.	#4 at 56" o.c.	#5 at 72" o.c.
	7	#4 at 64" o.c.	#5 at 64" o.c.	#4 at 32" o.c.
9	8	#4 at 48" o.c.	#4 at 32" o.c.	#5 at 40" o.c.
	5	#4 at 72" o.c.	#4 at 72" o.c.	#4 at 72" o.c.
	6	#4 at 72" o.c.	#4 at 56" o.c.	#5 at 64" o.c.
	7	#4 at 56" o.c.	#4 at 40" o.c.	#6 at 64" o.c.
	8	#4 at 64" o.c.	#6 at 64" o.c.	#6 at 48" o.c.
9	#5 at 56" o.c.	#7 at 72" o.c.	#6 at 40" o.c.	

For SI: For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

- a. Mortar shall be Type M or S and masonry shall be laid in running bond.
- b. Alternative reinforcing bar sizes and spacing having an equivalent cross-sectional area of reinforcement per lineal foot of wall shall be permitted provided the spacing of the reinforcement does not exceed 72 inches.
- c. Vertical reinforcement shall be Grade 60 minimum. The distance from the face of the soil side of the wall to the center of vertical reinforcement shall be at least 8.75 inches.
- d. Soil classes are in accordance with the Unified Soil Classification System. Refer to Table R405.1.
- e. Unbalanced backfill height is the difference in height of the exterior and interior finish ground levels. Where an interior concrete slab is provided, the unbalanced backfill height shall be measured from the exterior finish ground level to the top of the interior concrete slab.

**TABLE R404.1.1(4)
REINFORCED CONCRETE AND MASONRY FOUNDATION WALLS**

MAXIMUM WALL HEIGHT (feet)	MAXIMUM UNBALANCED BACKFILL HEIGHT ^a (feet)	MINIMUM VERTICAL REINFORCEMENT SIZE AND SPACING ^{b,c} FOR 10-INCH NOMINAL WALL THICKNESS		
		Soil Classes ^d		
		GW, GP, SW and SP soils	GM, GC, SM, SM-SC and ML soils	SC, MH, ML-CL and inorganic CL soils
7	4	#4 at 56" o.c.	#4 at 56" o.c.	#4 at 56" o.c.
	5	#4 at 56" o.c.	#4 at 56" o.c.	#4 at 56" o.c.
	6	#4 at 56" o.c.	#4 at 48" o.c.	#4 at 40" o.c.
	7	#4 at 56" o.c.	#5 at 56" o.c.	#5 at 40" o.c.
8	5	#4 at 56" o.c.	#4 at 56" o.c.	#4 at 48" o.c.
	6	#4 at 56" o.c.	#4 at 48" o.c.	#5 at 56" o.c.
	7	#4 at 48" o.c.	#4 at 32" o.c.	#6 at 56" o.c.
	8	#5 at 56" o.c.	#5 at 40" o.c.	#7 at 56" o.c.
9	5	#4 at 56" o.c.	#4 at 56" o.c.	#4 at 48" o.c.
	6	#4 at 56" o.c.	#4 at 40" o.c.	#4 at 32" o.c.
	7	#4 at 56" o.c.	#5 at 48" o.c.	#6 at 48" o.c.
	8	#4 at 32" o.c.	#6 at 48" o.c.	#4 at 16" o.c.
	9	#5 at 40" o.c.	#6 at 40" o.c.	#7 at 40" o.c.

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

- a. Mortar shall be Type M or S and masonry shall be laid in running bond.
- b. Alternative reinforcing bar sizes and spacings having an equivalent cross-sectional area of reinforcement per lineal foot of wall shall be permitted provided the spacing of the reinforcement does not exceed 72 inches.
- c. Vertical reinforcement shall be Grade 60 minimum. The distance from the face of the soil side of the wall to the center of vertical reinforcement shall be at least 6.75 inches.
- d. Soil classes are in accordance with the Unified Soil Classification System. Refer to Table R405.1.
- e. Unbalanced backfill height is the difference in height of the exterior and interior finish ground levels. Where an interior concrete slab is provided, the unbalanced backfill height shall be measured from the exterior finish ground level to the top of the interior concrete slab.

R404.1.4 Seismic Design Categories D₁ and D₂. In addition to the requirements of Table R404.1.1(1), plain concrete and plain masonry foundation walls located in Seismic Design Categories D₁ and D₂, as established in Table R301.2 (1), shall comply with the following:

1. Minimum reinforcement shall consist of one No. 4 (No. 13) horizontal bar located in the upper 12 inches (305 mm) of the wall,
2. Wall height shall not exceed 8 feet (2438 mm),
3. Height of unbalanced backfill shall not exceed 4 feet (1219 mm), and
4. A minimum thickness of 7.5 inches (191 mm) is required for plain concrete foundation walls except that a minimum thickness of 6 inches (152 mm) shall be permitted for plain concrete foundation walls with a maximum height of 4 feet, 6 inches (1372 mm).
5. Plain masonry foundation walls shall be a minimum of 8 inches (203 mm) thick.

Vertical reinforcement for masonry stem walls shall be tied to the horizontal reinforcement in the footings. Masonry stem walls located in Seismic Design Categories D₁ and D₂ shall have a minimum vertical reinforcement of one No. 3 bar located a maximum of 4 feet (1220 mm) on center in grouted cells.

Foundation walls located in Seismic Design Categories D₁ and D₂, as established in Table R301.2(1), supporting more than 4 feet (1219 mm) of unbalanced backfill or exceeding 8 feet (2438 mm) in height shall be constructed in accordance with Table R404.1.1(2), R404.1.1(3) or

R404.1.1(4) and shall have two No. 4 (No. 13) horizontal bars located in the upper 12 inches (305 mm) of the wall.

R404.1.5 Foundation wall thickness based on walls supported. The thickness of concrete and masonry foundation walls shall not be less than the thickness of the wall supported, except that foundation walls of at least 8-inch (203 mm) nominal thickness shall be permitted under brick-veneer frame walls and under 10-inch-wide (254 mm) cavity walls where the total height of the wall supported, including gables, is not more than 20 feet (6096 mm), provided the requirements of Sections R404.1.1 and R404.1.2 are met.

R404.1.5.1 Pier and curtain wall foundations. Pier and curtain wall foundations shall be permitted to be used to support light-frame construction not more than two stories in height, provided the following requirements are met:

1. All load-bearing walls shall be placed on continuous concrete footings placed integrally with the exterior wall footings.
2. The minimum actual thickness of a load-bearing masonry wall shall be not less than 4 inches (102 mm) nominal or 3³/₈ inches (92 mm) actual thickness, and shall be bonded integrally with piers spaced in accordance with Section R606.8.
3. Piers shall be constructed in accordance with Section R606.5 and Section R606.5.1, and shall be bonded into the load-bearing masonry wall in accordance with Section R608.1.1 or Section R608.1.1.2.

R404.4.11 Drainage and dampproofing/waterproofing. ICF foundation basements shall be drained and damp-proofed/waterproofed in accordance with Sections R405 and R406.

sieve size larger than the tile joint opening or perforation and covered with not less than 6 inches (153 mm) of the same material.

Exception: A drainage system is not required when the foundation is installed on well-drained ground or sand-gravel mixture soils according to the Unified Soil Classification System, Group I Soils, as detailed in Table R405.1.

**SECTION R405
FOUNDATION DRAINAGE**

R405.1 Concrete or masonry foundations. Drains shall be provided around all concrete or masonry foundations that retain earth and enclose habitable or usable spaces located below grade. Drainage tiles, gravel or crushed stone drains, perforated pipe or other approved systems or materials shall be installed at or below the area to be protected and shall discharge by gravity or mechanical means into an approved drainage system. Gravel or crushed stone drains shall extend at least 1 foot (305 mm) beyond the outside edge of the footing and 6 inches (153 mm) above the top of the footing and be covered with an approved filter membrane material. The top of open joints of drain tiles shall be protected with strips of building paper, and the drainage tiles or perforated pipe shall be placed on a minimum of 2 inches (51 mm) of washed gravel or crushed rock at least one

R405.2 Wood foundations. Wood foundations enclosing habitable or usable spaces located below grade shall be adequately drained in accordance with Sections R405.2.1 through R405.2.3.

R405.2.1 Base. A porous layer of gravel, crushed stone or coarse sand shall be placed to a minimum thickness of 4 inches (102 mm) under the basement floor. Provision shall be made for automatic draining of this layer and the gravel or crushed stone wall footings.

R405.2.2 Moisture barrier. A 6-mil-thick (0.15 mm) polyethylene moisture barrier shall be applied over the porous layer with the basement floor constructed over the polyethylene.

**TABLE R405.1
PROPERTIES OF SOILS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THE UNIFIED SOIL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM**

SOIL GROUP	UNIFIED SOIL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM SYMBOL	SOIL DESCRIPTION	DRAINAGE CHARACTERISTICS ^a	FROST HEAVE POTENTIAL	VOLUME CHANGE POTENTIAL EXPANSION ^b
Group I	GW	Well-graded gravels, gravel sand mixtures, little or no fines.	Good	Low	Low
	GP	Poorly graded gravels or gravel sand mixtures, little or no fines.	Good	Low	Low
	SW	Well-graded sands, gravelly sands, little or no fines.	Good	Low	Low
	SP	Poorly graded sands or gravelly sands, little or no fines.	Good	Low	Low
	GM	Silty gravels, gravel-sand-silt mixtures.	Good	Medium	Low
	SM	Silty sand, sand-silt mixtures.	Good	Medium	Low
Group II	GC	Clayey gravels, gravel-sand-clay mixtures.	Medium	Medium	Low
	SC	Clayey sands, sand-clay mixture.	Medium	Medium	Low
	ML	Inorganic silts and very fine sands, rock flour, silty or clayey fine sands or clayey silts with slight plasticity.	Medium	High	Low
	CL	Inorganic clays of low to medium plasticity, gravelly clays, sandy clays, silty clays, lean clays.	Medium	Medium	Medium to Low
Group III	CH	Inorganic clays of high plasticity, fat clays.	Poor	Medium	High
	MH	Inorganic silts, micaceous or diatomaceous fine sandy or silty soils, elastic silts.	Poor	High	High
Group IV	OL	Organic silts and organic silty clays of low plasticity.	Poor	Medium	Medium
	OH	Organic clays of medium to high plasticity, organic silts.	Unsatisfactory	Medium	High
	Pt	Peat and other highly organic soils.	Unsatisfactory	Medium	High

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

- a. The percolation rate for good drainage is over 4 inches per hour, medium drainage is 2 inches to 4 inches per hour, and poor is less than 2 inches per hour.
- b. Soils with a low potential expansion typically have a plasticity index (PI) of 0 to 15, soils with a medium potential expansion have a PI of 10 to 35 and soils with a high potential expansion have a PI greater than 20.