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**WASHINGTON COUNTY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PERMITS & INSPECTIONS**

80 West Baltimore Street  
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740-6003  
Telephone: 240-313-2460  
Fax: 240-313-2461  
TTY/Hearing Impaired: 240-313-2430

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Building  
Electrical  
Plumbing  
Mechanical

# MEMO

**Date:** May 27, 2010

**From:** Dan DiVito

**Subject:** Retaining Walls

A permit is not required for retaining walls that retain less than 36-inches of unbalanced backfill unless supporting a surcharge \*.

Retaining walls that retain greater than 36" of unbalanced backfill must be permitted and are required to be designed (engineered drawings) to insure stability against overturning, sliding, excessive foundation pressure, and water uplift.

\* A typical example of a surcharge would be a parking area.