Retaining Walls: What They Do and How They Do It
Identifying and quantifying forces acting on retaining walls
- Weight of the wall
- Pressure from retained soil
- Pressure on foundation of wall
- Characteristics of soil
- Loads on retained soil
- Impacts of water—liquid and frozen
- Vibration
- Expansion/contraction

Equations and examples

Retaining Wall Types: Factoring in the Benefits, the Drawbacks, and (of Course) the Cost
Gravity walls
- Dry stacked walls
- Composite gravity walls
- Gabions
- Crib walls
- Soil-nailed wall
Cantilevered walls
- Cast-in-place concrete
- Masonry
- Buttressed walls

More Retaining Wall Types and Design Software
Sheet piling walls
Anchored walls
Design software

Slope Stabilization Techniques
Examining slope failures
Slope stability analysis
Stabilization techniques
- Unloading
- Drainage
- Reinforcement
- Mechanical stabilization

Identify and quantify forces acting on retaining walls.
Look at calculations and examples.
Survey the benefits and drawbacks, as well as the cost, of gravity, cantilevered, and sheet piling walls.
Learn about sheet piling, walls, and anchored walls.
Discuss slope stabilization techniques such as unloading, drainage, reinforcement, and mechanical stabilization.

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Study the forces acting on retaining walls, such as the weight of the wall, soil pressure, and the impact of water.
Look at calculations and examples.
Survey the benefits and drawbacks, as well as the cost, of gravity, cantilevered, and sheet piling walls.
Discuss retaining wall design software.
Discuss slope stabilization techniques.

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Faculty

Paul Schimnowski, P.E.  Criterion-Schimnowski Engineers in Mahomet, IL

Mr. Schimnowski has a strong background in the structural evaluation of commercial and residential projects, including segmental retaining wall designs and evaluations. He has worked on many building design projects for architects, homeowners, property management companies, contractors, relocation companies, buyers, investors, and warranty companies. Mr. Schimnowski is a licensed professional engineer in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska.

He has been a consulting engineer for more than 15 years. As president of Criterion-Schimnowski Engineers, Mr. Schimnowski has been involved in structural evaluations and inspections, property condition assessments, and capital need assessments for commercial and residential building projects.

Prior to joining hands with Criterion Engineers in 2011, he owned and operated his own civil engineering design and consulting firm for nearly 10 years where he worked on a variety of projects ranging from large-size commercial to new and aged residential building projects. These projects included office buildings, industrial buildings, hospitals, recreational facilities, schools, parks, parking structures, and residential apartment buildings. His job responsibilities included retaining wall design and evaluations; structural evaluations; development of construction documents in coordination with architects, engineers, owners and contractors; performance of design calculations; development of construction documents in compliance with the current building codes; and performance of frequent field inspections to monitor the building's structural integrity.

Mr. Schimnowski was a construction materials engineer and technician at a construction quality control and geotechnical engineering company for many years and specialized in reinforced concrete, structural masonry, existing condition surveys, and noise and vibration studies.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Minnesota and is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.