INFORMATION BULLETIN
IB-0123

Eff: 01-01-2023 Rev:

CMU Block Wall Detail

The purpose of this Information Bulletin is to assist owners and builders who choose to erect simple freestanding concrete masonry unit (CMU) block walls using the Department’s Standard detail. This Information Bulletin detail provides general requirements and specifications for the construction of standard CMU block walls of various heights, thicknesses, or footing configurations. These walls are designed for the average condition and may not be suitable in all cases. Where the proposed wall construction is located on a site with a slope steeper than 10%, with adverse soil conditions (e.g., expansive soil, liquefaction, flood hard, etc.) or deviates from this Information Bulletin detail, a Registered Design Professional licensed in the State of California shall be required.

General Zoning Requirements, contact PlanningRedondo@redondo.org:
For zoning code purposes, fence height shall be measured from the grade adjoining the fence on the public right-of-way side of the fence and/or from the highest grade on both sides of the fence between two properties. For lots that slope
more than 5 feet from the front to the rear, contact the Planning staff to help establish the fence height. A corner cutoff may be required for fencing adjacent to driveways and sidewalks that obstruct visibility.

**General Building Requirements:**
Walls over 5 feet in height measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall shall require a building permit. The foundation must be poured against undisturbed soil with no appreciable slope of sidewalls. All horizontal and vertical reinforcements shall maintain a minimum 3-inch clearance from the bottom and sides of the trench. Horizontal bond beam reinforcement is required to be located in the 2nd course from the top of the wall. Prefabricated joint reinforcement in each two top mortar joints consisting of two No. 9 gage galvanized wires with No. 9 gage steel welded cross wires spaced a maximum of 16 inches on center (o.c.) may be substituted for the horizontal bond beam reinforcement in the top of walls 5 feet 6 inches or less in heights. All wires shall be thoroughly embedded in the bed joint mortar and lapped a minimum of 12 inches. Units shall be staggered (common bond are not permitted) and may be partially grouted with grout confined to those cells that have horizontal and vertical reinforcing steel.

**Specifications:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Specification</th>
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<tr>
<td>Concrete:</td>
<td>Min. 2,500 psi strength in 28 days. Mix for concrete footing to be 1 part cement to 2- 1/2 parts sand to 3-1/2 parts gravel with a max. of 7-1/2 gallons of water per sack of cement.</td>
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<td>Block:</td>
<td>Grade &quot;N&quot; ASTM C 90-03. Nominal width of units shall be a min. 6&quot;.</td>
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<td>Reinforcement:</td>
<td>Deformed steel bar conforming to ASTM A-615 Grade 40 or Grade 60.</td>
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<td>Mortar (Type &quot;S&quot;)</td>
<td>Mix to be 1 part cement to 1/2 part lime to 3 parts damp loose sand.</td>
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<td>Grout:</td>
<td>Mix to be 1 part cement to 3 parts sand to max. 1/10 part lime. Sufficient water should be added to produce consistency for pouring without segregation of the constituents. May contain 2 parts pea gravel (max. size 3/8&quot;).</td>
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**Inspections:**
Foundation Inspection: When the trench is ready for concrete and all steel reinforcements are tied in place.
Pre-Grout Inspection: When the first horizontal bar and all vertical bars are in place, but not grouted.
Final Inspection: After the wall is grouted and the cap is installed.

**Common Property Line Wall:**
Where a common property line wall is requested
1. A property line survey may be required as determined by the city.
2. A completed and signed "Property Line Wall Agreement" form by all common property owners is required prior to permit issuance.