

## SRW Contractor Comparison Checklist [Recommended responses provided in italics]

Contractor Information	Contractor #1	Contractor #2
<b>1. Company Name</b> Address Phone # Contact		
<b>2. Workmanship Warranty (yrs)</b>		
<b>3. Job References Provided</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Installation Procedures	Contractor #1	Contractor #2
<b>1. Excavation</b>	\$	\$
• Depth x Width		
• Final Elevation Agreed <i>[yes]</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>2. Base Leveling Pad Construction</b>	\$	\$
• Type of Material <i>[crushed stone]</i>		
• Depth of Material <i>[minimum 6 in.]</i>		
• Width of Material <i>[minimum 12 in. + SRW width]</i>		
<b>3. Wall Installation (\$)</b>	\$	\$
• Quantity (Sq. Ft.)		
• SRW Size and Batter (facing inclination)		
• Supplier		
• Color		
• Pattern Name		
• Installation		
- Use connectors (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA
- One course installed prior to backfilling and soil compaction <i>[yes]</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>4. Drainage Pipe and Gravel Installation (\$)</b>	\$	\$
• Pipe Quantity (linear ft.)		
- minimum diameter 4 in. <i>[yes]</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
- daylighting every 50 ft. max. <i>[yes]</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
• Gravel fill	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
• Gravel Quantity (ft <sup>3</sup> )		
- fill cores and between units <i>[yes]</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
- minimum 12 in. behind the unit <i>[yes]</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>5. Backfilling and Compaction (\$)</b>	\$	\$
• Compaction		
- place gravel and then the soil <i>[yes]</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
- maximum 8 in. layers <i>[yes]</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
- maximum compaction of backfilled soil (compact to refusal) <i>[yes]</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
• Woven Geotextile/Geogrid (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA
• Stamped Design (If an engineer is required) <i>[yes]</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA
<b>6. Capping (\$ (optional))</b>	\$	\$
• Saw cutting caps <i>[yes]</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA
• Gluing (w/masonry adhesive) <i>[yes]</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA
<b>7. Grading and Cleaning (\$)</b>	\$	\$
• Soil grading <i>[yes]</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
• Landscaping	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
• Cleaning <i>[yes]</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	\$	\$

# Selecting the Correct Installer for Segmental Retaining Walls

A guide for segmental retaining wall residential projects



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[www.ncma.org](http://www.ncma.org)

## What's best for your home and your lifestyle?

Do you want a retaining wall for your backyard, driveway, patio, or pool? Segmental retaining walls are a great choice! They are:

- structurally stable
- aesthetically pleasing
- low maintenance
- highly flexible
- durable

And available in a wide variety of colors and textures to complement the style of your home

and its surroundings! To get the most from your segmental retaining wall project, consider the following before you start.

## What applications can SRW systems be used in at my home?

SRWs can be used in any number of applications.

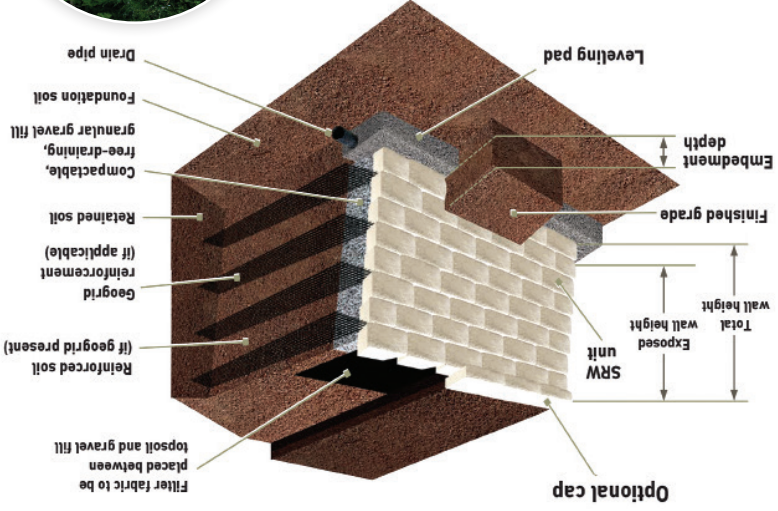
Residential projects can range from a structural application, which may include extending a patio or creating space for a pool, to a non-structural application, such as planters, fire pits or seating areas throughout a yard. It is always important to

review the local building codes to ensure the proper construction process is followed.

## What do you need to know in order to select the right contractor/designer for your project?

NCMA recommends always using NCMA Certified SRW installers as they possess the knowledge and expertise necessary for a project's success. These specialized contractors can complete a high-quality job quickly, efficiently and safely because they have the right equipment, materials, skills, and knowledge for the project. A list of local certified installers in your area can be found at: [www.ncma.org/SRWdirectory](http://www.ncma.org/SRWdirectory).

Segmental Wall Components



## Why is NCMA Certification important?

NCMA Certified SRW installers are industry professionals who know and understand the industry standards. NCMA provides technical support and the latest industry information to their certified installers.



NCMA Certified SRW installers learn the necessary quality details required for proper segmental retaining wall installation, such as:

- soil classification and compaction
- system design and construction considerations
- water management
- proper material and labor estimating
- sound business practices

The installer can verify their certification by presenting a valid NCMA SRW Installer Certification certificate. More than 13,000 installers have been trained by NCMA since 2003.

## What questions should you ask a contractor?

In order to ensure a quality installation, you should ask the contractor the following questions:

- Is the contractor a reputable, licensed, certified SRW installer?
  - How long has the contractor been installing segmental retaining walls? What percentage of the contractor's total business consists of installing segmental retaining walls?
  - Will the contractor provide you with three references from past jobs? Can you contact their references and inspect the jobs?
  - Does the contractor have a portfolio of photos and recommendation letters?
  - Is the contractor familiar with NCMA specifications and local ordinances? Can the contractor supply a copy to you?
  - Will the contractor provide a written, itemized proposal outlining the scope of work and terms of payment?
  - Will the contractor guarantee their work and will they return to inspect it?
  - Is the contractor a member of NCMA or another association?
- The contractor comparison checklist provided in the following section is designed to aid you in the contractor selection process.

Visit the NCMA Solutions Center, [www.ncma-br.org](http://www.ncma-br.org), for additional resources on SRWs.



For technical information on SRW systems, please refer to NCMA's SRW Best Practices Guide and Segmental Retaining Walls—Residential Applications booklet, which is available for free download at [www.ncma.org](http://www.ncma.org), as well as product-specific information from SRW suppliers.