

**Design Tables for Stemwall Foundations**

Stemwall foundations are foundation walls that are constructed directly on the soil and without footings. Although they are not a new technology, they are not often used in today's home building. Because stemwall foundations are seen as different, inspectors often require engineering approval. To assist in this approval, the National Association of Home Builders Research Center created design tables that provide minimum soil bearing capacities for a variety of common characteristics of home buildings. The appropriate industry design loads have been factored into the tables. A builder can identify the characteristic of a house and locate the appropriate table. If the recommended value of soil bearing capacity is less than the measured bearing capacity of the soil at the site, then stemwall construction is feasible.

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