

Landscape Architect / Segmental Retaining Wall Systems Newsletter Story Introduction

First it was Santa Ana-fueled wildfires, then it was rain-soaked mudslides. Because of these, hundreds of Southern California homeowners have suffered severe property damage and loss in recent months.

One form of insurance that can help protect property from both of these devastating disasters is a retaining wall. In fire prone areas, especially areas with steep, sloping ground, retaining walls can reduce the rate of fire spread and the risk of land or mudslide.



Consider using one of the newer segmental retaining wall systems. Combining old techniques that go back as far as the Great Wall of China 2,500 years ago with new technology developed in the last 20 years, these retaining walls are easier to build. Since



these new systems do not require mortar or concrete footers, the average homeowner can build a wall much more quickly than it took armies of soldiers and peasants to piece together the Great Wall.

At California Garden Designs, we offer a complete range of the newest segmental retaining wall systems.

You can choose from a variety of rock faces and colors, drainage systems, and accessories such as steps and light posts. You can also save your back by using hollow blocks you fill with gravel. Because each concrete block is manufactured to be perfectly uniform, the walls they form are strong and flexible. Each retaining wall system comes complete with easy-to-follow instructions and delivery right to your back yard.

For unusual slopes or any wall over four feet, it is a good idea to consult a civil or structural engineer who will help you plan the safest and most effective wall based on an analysis of height, slope of your ground, type of soil (whether it drains well or not), and any added weight next to it such as a driveway.