



Complete Guide to: Seawalls

Seawalls must withstand some of the most brutal conditions of any marine structures built today. Cracking, bowing, or erosion of the ground behind the wall can be signs of trouble. Heavy loads due to high levels of ground water, violent storms, and marine borers are just a few of the hazards to consider when choosing which material to use to protect your waterfront property. Several of the most commonly used seawall materials that can protect your most valuable investment are available through ACI Enterprise. These material include:

Steel • Aluminum • Concrete • Vinyl • Composite • Wood

When deciding on a seawall, we often hear similar questions from multiple clients. The following are common FAQ's to help your installation process go smoothly.

1. What is the life expectancy of a seawall?

The average lifespan of a seawall can range from 15 to 30 years, depending on build quality and location.

2. What maintenance is required?

Very little maintenance is required, as long as any cracking, shifting or erosion is repaired as soon as possible.

3. What are the holes in the seawall panels?

The holes in the seawall panels are called “weep holes”, which allow Hydrostatic water to seep through to relief pressure from behind the seawall.

4. Why am I missing dirt behind my seawall?

Holes behind the seawall are called “erosion holes”, which are caused by dirt washing through cracks in an old or damaged seawall. ACI can repair erosion holes and secure foundation.

5. Do I need a permit to build a seawall?

Yes.

6. Can I repair my existing seawall?

Yes, as long as the damage is not beyond repair. ACI will assess the damage to determine the best option to repair or replace the seawall.

7. What types of seawalls do you install?

Concrete, vinyl, wood, steel, aluminum and composite.

8. How do I know if my seawall needs to be repaired/replaced?

If there are large cracks in the panels or cap, severe erosion, separation of panels, and/or wall and cap leaning forward or back, the seawall will need to be repaired or replaced.

9. My pool is close to my seawall, won't it fall in?

This is possible if your seawall fails and your pool is within the 2:1 "slide zone".

10. How high can I build my seawall?

Depending on location, usually no higher than the highest neighboring cap by 12".

11. How wide can I make my seawall cap?

In most cases, you can have your seawall cap as wide as you would like, though cost is a factor.

12. What are the benefits of a concrete seawall over others?

Depending on location, concrete seawalls are a great option due to their strength and longevity.

13. Do you install retention walls?

Yes, we install retention walls constructed of concrete, vinyl, wood.



14. On average, how long does it take to install a seawall?

Depending on length, material used, and if debris or rock is present, a standard seawall can be installed in about two to three weeks.

15. Will I be able to use my yard during the time of construction?

ACI advises against the use of your yard where construction is present due to machinery, material and other hazards that make it unsafe.

16. How does a seawall keep from falling forward or backward?

The bottom of the seawall panels are embedded into the sand table at a minimum of 50%. The seawall cap is secured by a steel tieback system to keep the seawall from falling front to back.

17. There are small cracks in my seawall cap, is that normal?

Yes, small hairline cracks in the seawall cap are caused by the curing process of the concrete. Any cracks larger than that should be inspected.



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