

Promoting a greater awareness and appreciation of the craft of dry stone building in Ireland

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BENEFITS OF A DRY STONE RETAINING WALL

- FLEXIBLE AND FREE DRAINING. 1m³ of soil can weigh as much as 1 tonne
 and when wet the water within the soil decreases the friction between the
 particles causing movement. A dry stone wall allows for this by draining
 freely and flexing with that movement.
- NEEDS LESS MASS THAN MORATRED WALLS. A mortared retaining wall
 must retain the weight of the soil for its entire length and so must be very
 strong. Because a dry stone wall allows the moisture to drain freely
 through it the pressure from behind the wall is alleviated and the mass
 pressing against the wall is dissipated.
- NO DRAINAGE PIPES/HOLES REQUIRED. A dry stone retaining wall does not need any drainage holes/apertures near the base to alleviate pressure from moisture build up that occurs behind mortared retaining walls.
- NO WEED BARRIER NEEDED. Dry stone retaining walls don't need a weed barrier behind them.
- NO DPC REQUIRED. Dry stone retaining walls don't need a damp proof course.
- THEY DON'T CRACK. Dry stone retaining walls don't have any mortar that can crack and cause failure of the structure.
- NEED ONLY ONE PROFESSIONAL. When being built to heights of 1.5m or under dry stone retaining walls can be built using only one professional and no need for multiple trades.
- THEY LOOK GOOD (When built well by a dry stone professional!)



