

## **Window in foundation wall-laterally unsupported foundation wall**

When a window is installed in the foundation wall and has a length of more than 1.2 m (48 in.), the foundation wall section under the window opening is considered to be laterally unsupported.

If this is the situation, the foundation wall needs to be designed by an engineer to ensure the wall around the opening is reinforced to withstand the earth pressure.

Sentence 9.15.4.3.3 of National building code 2010 stipulates that: “Unless the wall around an opening is reinforced (see section 4.2.3) to withstand earth pressure, the portion of the *foundation* wall beneath an opening shall be considered laterally unsupported if

- a) the opening is more than 1.2 m wide, or
- b) the total width of the openings in the *foundation* wall constitutes more than 25 % of the length of the wall”

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 877.7855.

