

Wall Bracing

Initial Period

The initial period is the period, not to exceed 24 hours, during which the masonry is being laid above its base or highest line of bracing, and at the end of which required bracing is installed. During this period, the mortar is assumed to have no strength and wall stability is accomplished from the masonry self-weight only. Based on this assumption and a wind speed limit of 20 mph (8.9 m/s), walls can be built to the heights shown in Table 1 without bracing during the initial period. If wind speeds exceed 20 mph (8.9 m/s) during the initial period, work on the wall must cease and the restricted zone on both sides of the wall must be evacuated. Evacuation for walls up to 8 ft (2.44 m) above grade is not necessary until wind speeds reach 35 mph (15.6 m/s) in keeping with a long-standing OSHA requirement.

Nominal wall thickness, in. (mm)	Density of masonry units, γ , lb/ft ³ (kg/m ³)		
	Lightweight units $95 < \gamma < 105$ ($1,522 < \gamma < 1,682$)	Medium weight units $105 < \gamma < 125$ ($1,682 < \gamma < 2,002$)	Normal weight units $125 < \gamma$ ($2,002 < \gamma$)
4 (102)	8'-0" (2.43)	8'-0" (2.43)	8'-0" (2.43)
6 (152)	8'-0" (2.43)	8'-0" (2.43)	8'-0" (2.43)
8 (203)	9'-4" (2.84)	10'-0" (3.05)	12'-0" (3.65)
10 (254)	13'-4" (4.05)	14'-8" (4.47)	17'-4" (5.27)
12 (305)	18'-0" (5.48)	20'-0" (6.09)	24'-0" (7.31)