

Rockery Maintenance and Care

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1) Time of Inspections:

- a) Project Completion - This should be done when all the sitework and landscaping are complete on a project. When the rockery walls are constructed, the project may not be done. Other trades may need to do work after the rockery wall contractor has left the site. Such as: grading, drain work, irrigation, landscaping, homebuilding, etc. There are possibilities that other trades may have altered the conditions of the wall or around the walls.
- b) Periodic inspections should be done after one full year of project completion. And at least every other year until year 10. Additional inspections may be necessary immediately following a catastrophic event such as a flood, heavier than normal rain/snow event, earthquake, etc. After 10 years inspections may be less frequent once conditions have stabilized.

2) Items to inspect:

- a) Grading - shaping and contouring of land for site development may affect the intended use of the rockery wall. This work can create fills or cuts that may settle overtime. Need to look for settling, erosion around the top, end or bottom of the rockery wall. Do not add a slope or increase the steepness of the slope beyond what was considered in the original design.
- b) Drainage - pipes at the base of the wall (if required and installed) need to be stubbed out to daylight or connected to storm drainage system by others. Make sure that all drainpipes are daylighted and not buried, have a proper drain channel or connection to a storm system. Water must be diverted from: cascading over the wall, eroding the base of the wall, pooling above the wall, over saturating the dirt around the wall, etc.
- c) Landscaping - watering and surface drainage around the wall should be designed to avoid any grading or drainage issues. Large trees and invasive plants may create problems that could have long term impact on the wall. Look to make sure other trades have not placed rocks, dirt, garbage, etc. within the voids of the rockery walls.
- d) Animals - Various animals can do damage to a rockery wall. Depending on the region, there are various types of animals that can cause issues with a rockery wall. Rodents, burrowing animals, horses, deer, dogs, etc. They may dig around the area creating holes, undermining, dislodging rocks, or potential health hazards.
- e) Added Surcharges - Do not add additional surcharges within a lateral distance of twice the height of the wall without written approval from the original design engineer. This includes buildings, swimming pools, landscaping walls, sound walls, fences, large trees, raising the wall height, steepened slopes, etc.

- f) Rock – Look for any movement or deflection of the large facing rock. This can be caused by people moving them, cars hitting the wall, natural causes, etc. Look for any rocks that show signs of major deterioration. Some surface deterioration over time is acceptable.

3) What to do if you find an issue:

Periodic maintenance will have to be done to take care of minor issues that come up overtime. Hire the proper personnel to take care of the minor issues as they arise. If larger issues are noticed, contact the original wall contractor and/or designer to see if the issue can be resolved. If you cannot resolve the larger issue with the original wall contractor or designer. Hire a local qualified rockery wall designer that engages in rockery wall design for construction on a regular basis. A local geotechnical company may have to be consulted if soil movement has occurred. It is highly discouraged to consult with geotechnical company or rockery wall designer that is not from or familiar with the construction methods of the local area.