

GLOSSARY OF COMMONLY USED TERMS

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| Batter | The facing angle created by SRW unit setback, measured from a vertical line drawn from the toe of the wall. Typical batter angles are 3° to 15° from vertical, sloping toward the infill soil. |
| Drainage composite | A system, usually comprised of a dimpled plastic core with a geotextile fabric, applied to prevent soil from clogging the drainage area. It is used to collect water usually behind the backfill, under the reinforced soil zone, or immediately under the SRW system. |
| Foundation soil | The soil that supports the leveling pad and the reinforced soil zone of a soil-reinforced SRW system. |
| Geogrid | A synthetic material formed into a grid-like structure for use in soil reinforcement. Usually comprised of polypropylene, polyester, or polyethylene. |
| Geotextile | A textile-like material used in soil drainage and reinforcement applications. Usually comprised of polypropylene or polyester, it can be woven or nonwoven. |
| Global stability | Resistance to overall mass movement of the SRW system in a circular mode. May be a problem of tiered walls, walls with weak foundation soils, and walls with a slope at the top or bottom. |
| Gravel fill | Clean gravel placed within and immediately behind the SRW units and in other areas for drainage. |

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| HDPE | High density polyethylene. Usually refers to the material used to manufacture drain pipe or geogrid. |
| Infill | Soil located behind the SRW units and gravel fill. May be reinforced with soil reinforcement. |
| Leveling pad | The level surface (gravel or concrete) used to distribute the weight of the dry-stacked column of SRW units over a wider foundation area and to provide a working surface during construction. The pad is typically constructed with free draining granular soil to facilitate compaction and drainage. |
| MSE | Mechanically stabilized earth. Soil-reinforced SRWs are considered MSE structures. |
| Overturning | An external stability failure mechanism of an SRW whereby lateral external forces cause the entire reinforced soil mass to rotate about the base. |
| Permeable | The ability of a material to pass water. |

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| Proctor (density) | A method used to determine the compaction or density of soil materials. |
| PVC | Polyvinyl chloride. Usually refers to the material used to manufacture drain pipe. |
| Reinforced soil zone | The area of a soil-reinforced SRW which contains the soil reinforcement. |
| Retained soil | The undisturbed soil for cut walls or the common backfill soil compacted behind infill soils. |
| Sliding | An external stability failure mechanism of an SRW whereby lateral external forces cause the entire soil mass to slide along its base or internally along a particular layer of soil reinforcement. |
| Soil-reinforced | An SRW system that uses soil reinforcement to increase the mass of the SRW, thereby increasing stability. |
| Surcharge | External load, usually applied at the top of an SRW. A roadway or building foundation can be a surcharge. |
| Swale | A small ditch or depression formed on top and behind the SRW system to collect water and carry it away. |