

2021 Virginia Construction Code

CHAPTER 33 SAFEGUARDS DURING CONSTRUCTION

SECTION 3304 SITE WORK

3304.1 Excavation and fill.

Excavation and fill for buildings and structures shall be constructed or protected so as not to endanger life or property. Stumps and roots shall be removed from the soil to a depth of not less than 12 inches (305 mm) below the surface of the ground in the area to be occupied by the building. Wood forms that have been used in placing concrete, if within the ground or between foundation sills and the ground, shall be removed before a building is occupied or used for any purpose. Before completion, loose or casual wood shall be removed from direct contact with the ground under the building.

3304.1.1 Slope limits.

Slopes for permanent fill shall be not steeper than one unit vertical in two units horizontal (50-percent slope). Cut slopes for permanent excavations shall be not steeper than one unit vertical in two units horizontal (50-percent slope). Deviation from the foregoing limitations for cut slopes shall be permitted only upon the presentation of a soil investigation report acceptable to the *building official*.

3304.1.2 Surcharge.

Fill or other surcharge *loads* shall not be placed adjacent to any building or structure unless such building or structure is capable of withstanding the additional *loads* caused by the fill or surcharge. Existing footings or foundations that can be affected by any excavation shall be underpinned adequately or otherwise protected against settlement and shall be protected against lateral movement.

3304.1.3 Footings on adjacent slopes.

For footings on adjacent slopes, see [Chapter 18](#).

3304.1.4 Fill supporting foundations.

Fill to be used to support the foundations of any building or structure shall comply with [Section 1804.6](#). *Special inspections* of compacted fill shall be in accordance with [Section 1705.6](#).