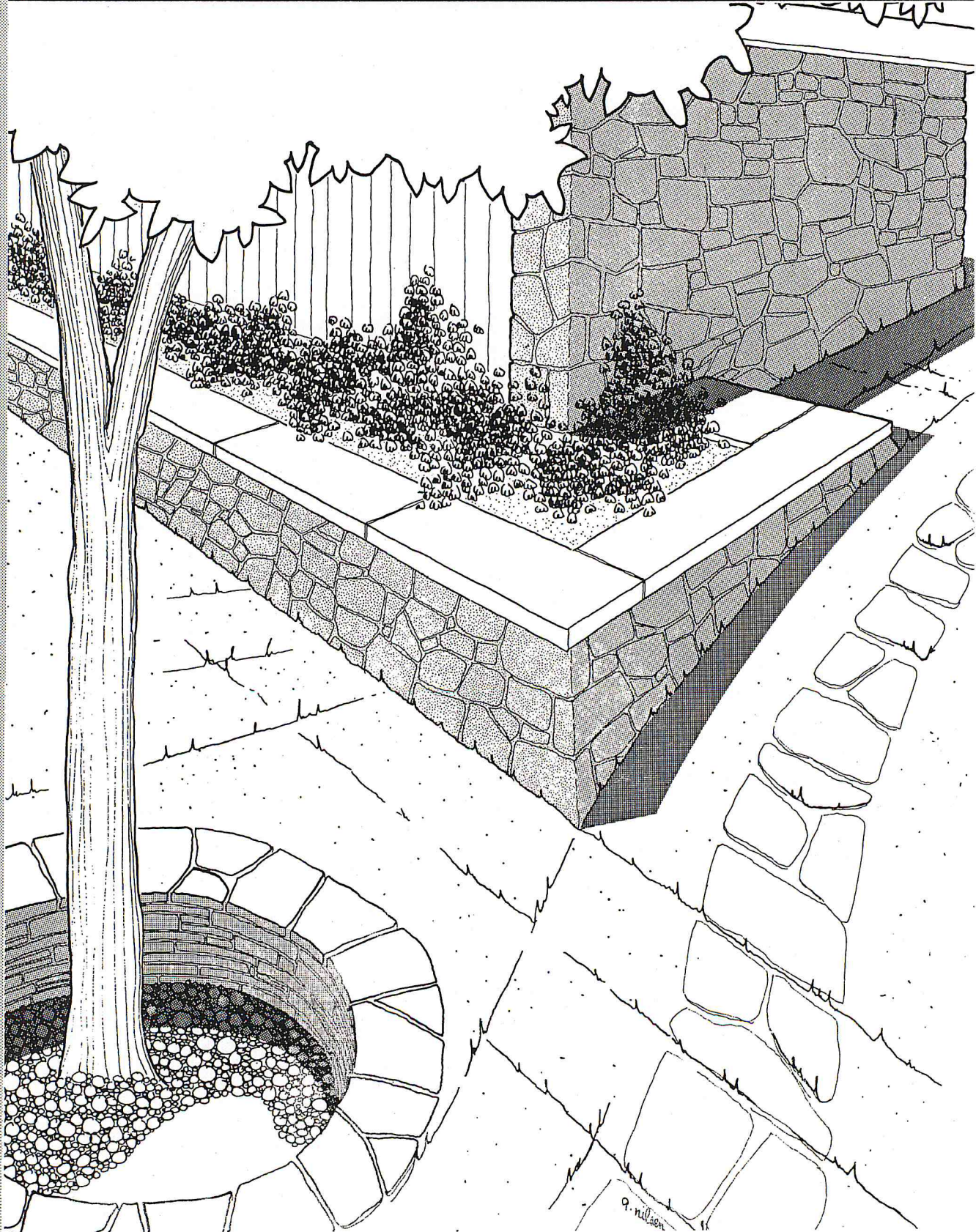


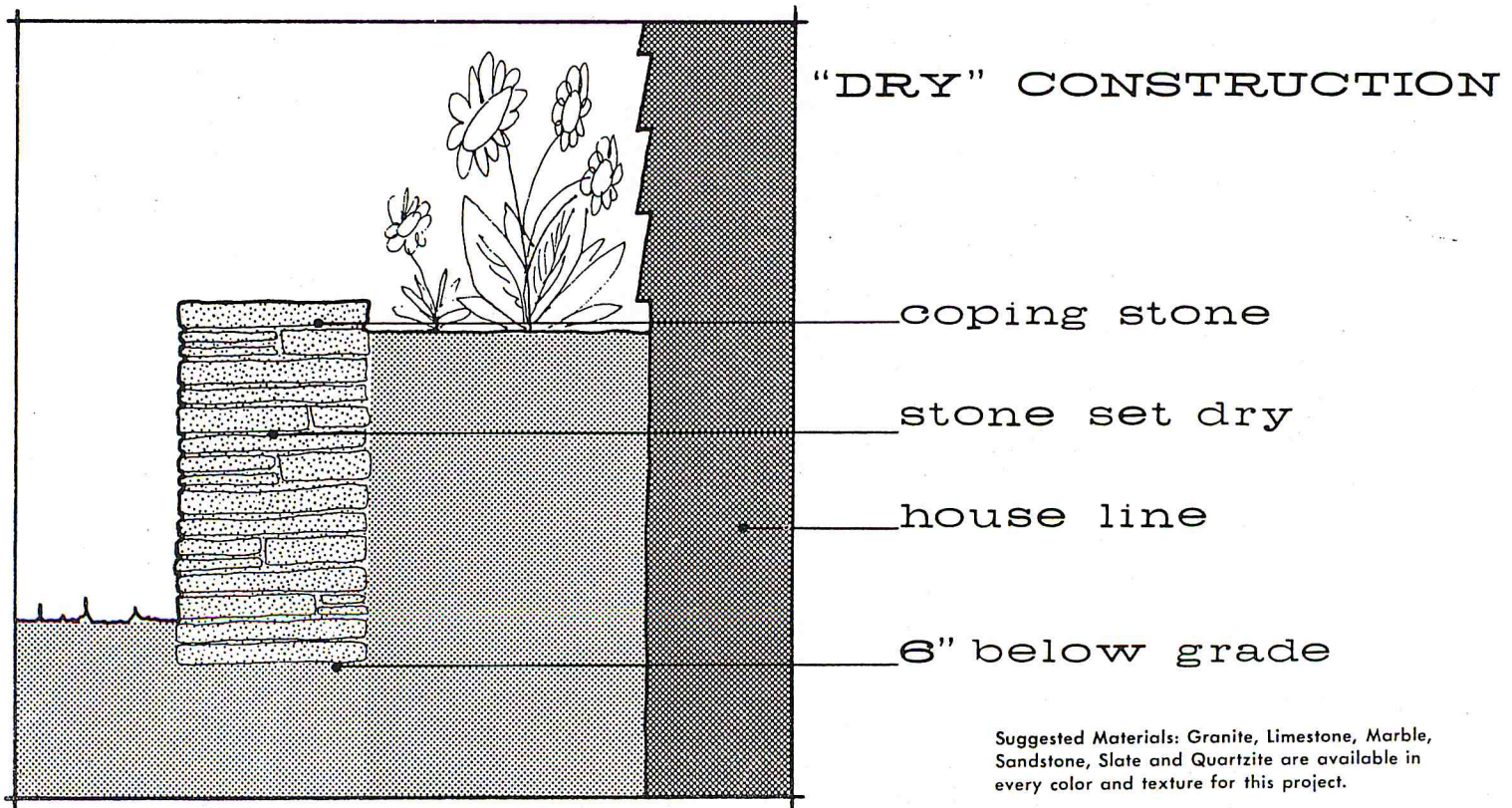
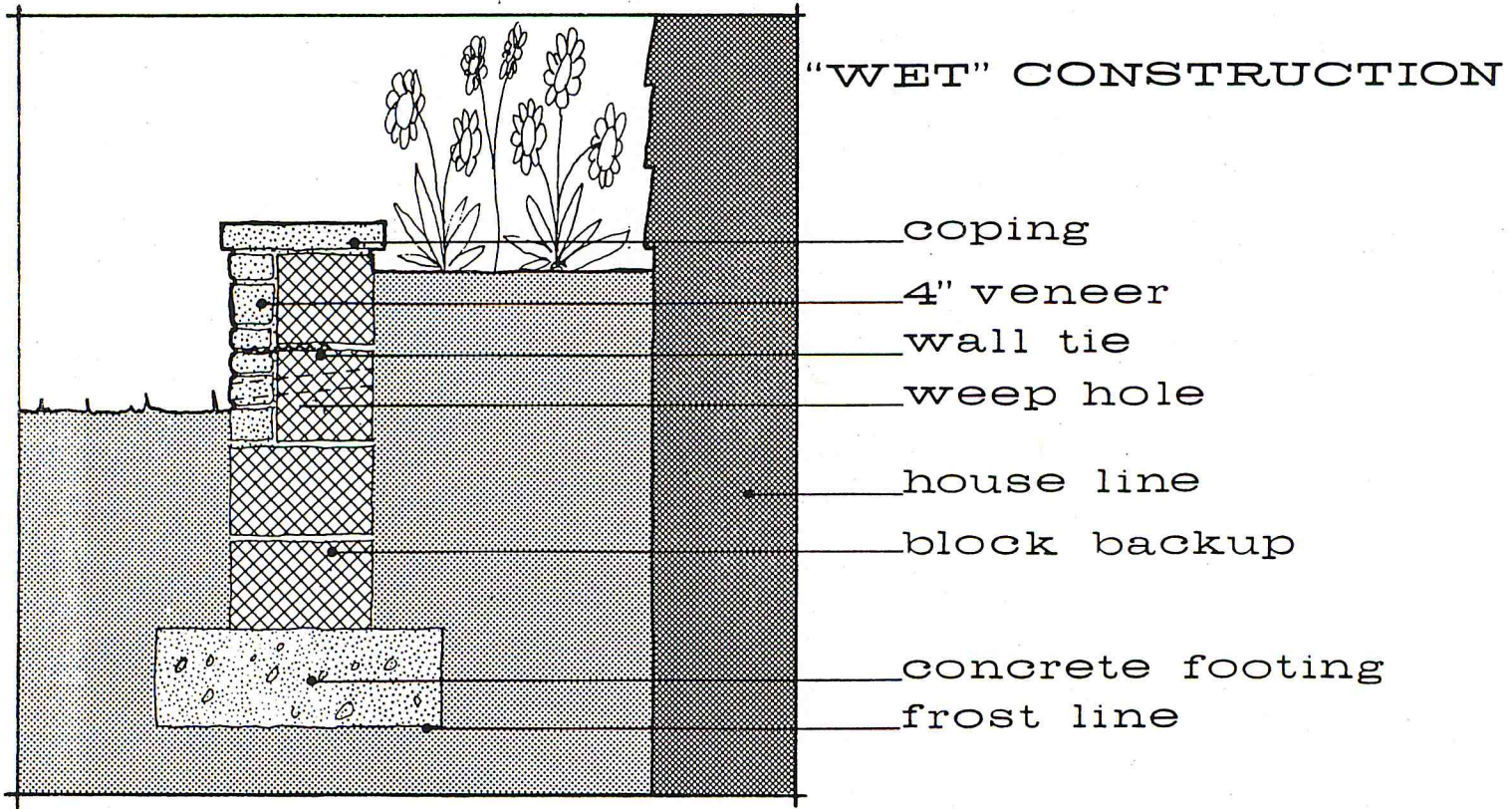
HOW TO

BUILD EXTERIOR PLANTERS AND TREE WELLS

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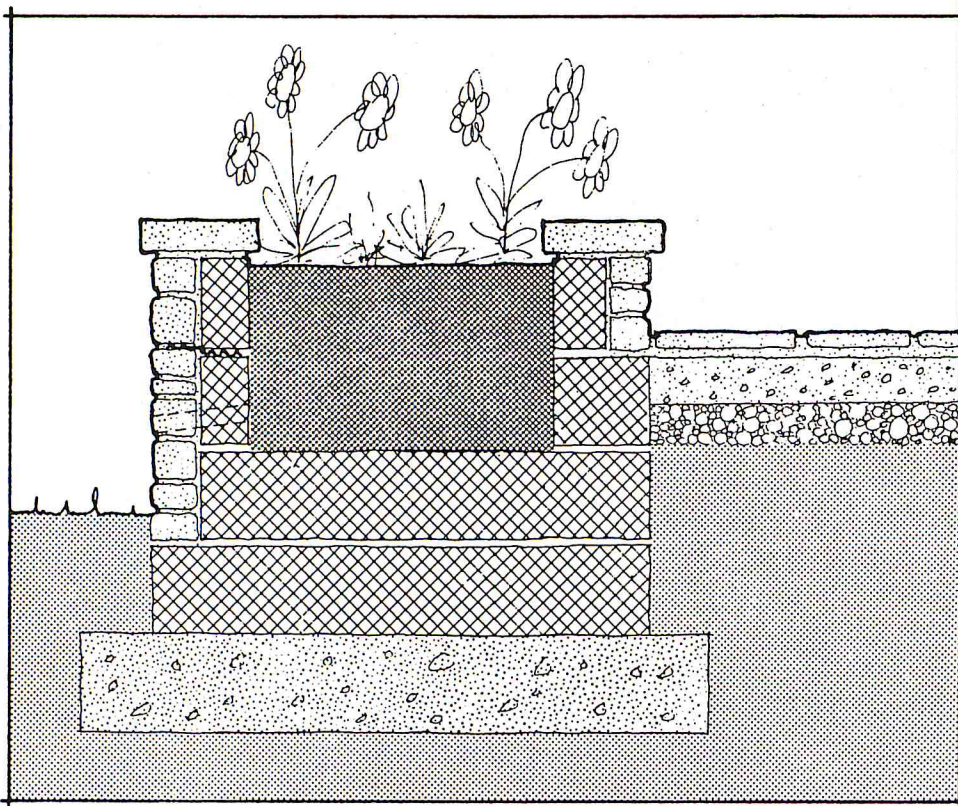


exterior planters



Suggested Materials: Granite, Limestone, Marble, Sandstone, Slate and Quartzite are available in every color and texture for this project.

construction details



DOUBLE SIDED PLANTER

DETAILS OF DOUBLE-SIDED
PLANTER ARE IDENTICAL TO
THAT FOR "WET" CONSTRUCTION
SHOWN ON OPPOSITE PAGE.

Exterior planters are nothing more than small retaining walls to hold earth for planting purposes.

Two different types of planter walls can be built; namely, wet and dry construction.

The stability of the "wet" constructed wall is dependent upon the cement mortar that is used between stones to hold them together and thus binds the wall into one unit. Two requirements of this type of construction are: (1) a footing of either solid stone or concrete down to the frost line, and (2) drainage weep holes placed in such a manner as to allow water to flow through the wall.

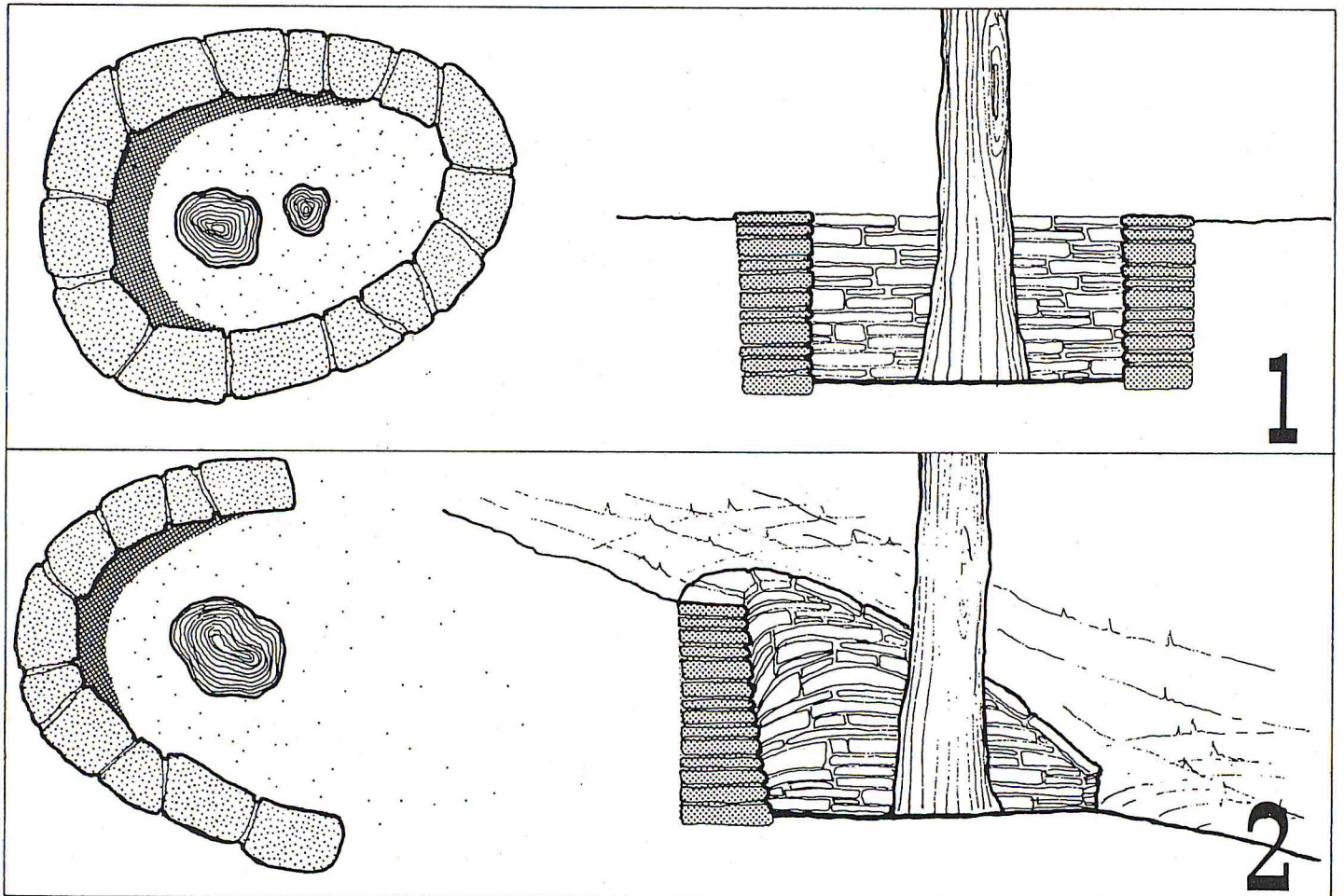
In making the mortar, use 1 part cement for every 2 parts of sand and mix with water to a workable consistency. Pack all voids solid with mortar to achieve a tight wall, taking care not to get cement on the face of the stones.

A wall laid up using a 4 inch stone veneer as a facing is almost always constructed as a wet wall. A concrete footing is poured about 8 inches thick by 20 inches wide (for a 12 inch thick wall) at the frost line. Concrete or cinder block is laid up to

just below grade. Then an 8 inch block is laid up leaving a 4 inch shelf to receive a 4 inch stone veneer. Wall ties are placed in between the block as it is laid to bond the veneer to the block. This type of construction almost always requires a stone coping of some sort to cover the veneer and exposed block. One advantage in using this type of construction is the unlimited choice of 4 inch veneer stones. In both cases, however, drain tiles should be placed in coarse gravel at the back of the wall, and weep holes (of rust free pipe) used throughout to let out water that otherwise would accumulate behind the wall.

A dry planter wall is one that is constructed without mortar. The dry wall depends upon the weight and friction of one stone on another for stability. When starting a dry wall, the first stones can be laid approximately 6 inches below grade. There is no elaborate footing required for a dry wall since the stones are not bonded together and will raise and lower with the frost. When placing the first layer or "course" larger stones should be used. A line should then be strung along the wall as a guide to keep the rest of the wall straight.

tree well - details



As in the case of an exterior planter, a tree well is a retaining wall around the base of a tree to hold back the earth when a change of grade is desired. If the earth were to cover the tree to the height of the embankment, the tree would die in a matter of months.

Generally the dry construction method is used for tree wells. This allows water in the surrounding earth to seep through the stone and down to the roots of the tree. Sometimes a completely circular tree well (see sketch #1) is not necessary as when the ground slopes (see sketch #2).

When starting a tree well the first stones can be laid approximately 6 inches below grade. There is no elab-

orate footing required for a tree well since the stones are not bonded together and will raise and lower with the frost.

For best results, set the stones as they would lie naturally on the ground. Do not turn them on end. Pack the back of the stones with earth, tying some stones into the earth by using larger pieces. Try to break up the joint lines. A continuous joint line is not as attractive or as strong.

In tree wells over 2 feet in height a setback (commonly called a batter) of 2 inches for every 1 foot in height is necessary for structural soundness.