

LEED for homes



LEED the way to a greener landscape with VERSA-LOK

Using VERSA-LOK Retaining Wall Systems can help contribute toward qualifying your homebuilding project for credits under the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for Homes program. LEED is a rating and certification system designed by the U.S. Green Building Council to encourage the use of sustainable technologies and building methods that reduce energy use and conserve natural resources.

LEED-certified homes will experience reduced maintenance and life-cycle operation costs. Recognizing

that, many architects and homebuilders are writing LEED certification requirements into bid specifications. That's where VERSA-LOK Retaining Wall Systems can help.

The LEED for Homes Rating System measures the overall performance of a home in eight categories, with 35 topic areas and 136 available points. A project must meet prerequisites and/or minimum points in certain categories and score 45 or more points overall to qualify for LEED certification.

VERSA-LOK may help achieve several points in the LEED for Homes Rating System.

Location and Linkages (LL)

2. Site selection. Do not develop buildings, build structures, roads or parking areas on portions of sites that meet certain criteria, such as location in a 100-year floodplain or within 100 feet of water or wetlands. (2 points)

3. Preferred locations. Select a lot that borders previously developed land or was previously developed itself. (Up to 4 points)

Sustainable Sites (SS)

2. Landscaping. Retaining walls may help achieve credits here.

3. Local heat island effects.

3. Reduce local heat island effects. VERSA-LOK systems may be used to reduce local heat island effects by installing light-colored, high-albedo materials for 50% of driveways, patios and sidewalks within 50 feet of the home. (1 pt)

4. Surface water management.

4.2 a) Permanent erosion controls. For portions of lot on steep slope, use terracing and retaining walls. (1 pt)

Materials and Resources (MR)

2. Environmentally Preferable products.

2.2 c) Local production. Use products that were extracted, processed and manufactured within 500 miles of the home. (1/2 point)

The first step toward LEED certification is to contact a LEED for Homes Provider and register your project for participation in the program. A Provider will provide orientation and technical assistance to builders and project managers regarding a project's eligibility for the LEED for Homes Program. For more information on the LEED for Homes Program, contact the U.S. Green Building Council at (202) 828-7422, or visit <http://www.usgbc.org/>.

We encourage you to consult with VERSA-LOK in the design phase of your next project so we can assist in maximizing your LEED credits. Let VERSA-LOK Retaining Wall Systems help green up your next building project!