Residential Excavation Safety “Cheat Sheet”

This “Cheat Sheet” is for Residential Foundation Excavations only. This is based on an OSHA Memo dated June 30, 1995. This allows the diagrams shown to the right to be used for residential foundation excavations. If those cannot be attained, the 3 options below can be used as detailed in CFR 1926 Subpart P. These are not the only options, just the most common. Refer to Subpart P for more info.

‘A’ Soil Type—over 7 ½’ from Grade (Sloping)

53° Angle

¾:1 Slope

3 ¾’ Max

2’ min.

Slosh Pile

12’ Max Depth

‘B’ Soil Type—over 7 ½’ from Grade (Single Bench/Slope)

45° Angle

1:1 Slope

4’

2’ min.

Slosh Pile

20’ Max Depth

‘C’ Soil Type

‘C’ Soil Type will not stand vertical

34° Angle

1 ½ :1 Slope

20’ Max Depth

Excavations 20’ deep and greater:

Cave-In Protection must be designed by a Registered Professional Engineer.

Other Types of Cave-In Protection:

• Timber Shoring*
• Shot-Crete*
• Shoring Piers(Caisson) *
• Sheet Pile Shoring*

*All must be engineered systems

If you are unsure, call for help: SFI Compliance, Inc.

Toll Free: 800-727-5051
Colorado: 303-649-1304
Texas: 214-646-1496
Washington DC: 202-417-3923

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