



**BUILDING CODE MANUAL  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
BUILDING AND SAFETY DIVISION  
Based on the 2011 LACBC**

**#104  
J103  
Article 2  
08-16-11  
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**GRADING PERMIT – EARTHWORK WITHIN BUILDING FOOTPRINT**

All earthwork, excavation or fill, within the footprint of the proposed building shall be exempt from a grading permit provided all of the following conditions are met. The intent is to consider earthwork as construction material and part of the building where the soil may be substituted by the basement or foundation of the building and where measures for flood protection, erosion control, building drainage, and other related code requirements are addressed as part of the building plan review.


1. The earthwork shall be done under authorization of a valid building permit and shall not be started prior to obtaining a building or foundation only permit.
2. The extent of earthwork and the disposition of the excavated material shall be clearly shown on the building drawings and shall be checked and approved as part of the building plans. If excavated material is to be retained on site, then this earthwork may require a separate grading permit per Section J103.
3. The extent of earthwork shall be limited to the area within the confines of the building footprint except for an extension beyond the perimeter wall line to provide adequate work space and stable backslope for construction of foundations and subterranean walls of five feet or as approved by the Building Official.
4. Fill used for the support of any structure or footing shall be compacted to a minimum of 90% dry density. (A.S.T.M. D-1557-91 – Soil Compaction Test). If a soils report was not required during building plan review, inspectors shall request a compaction report signed by a Soils Engineer. The compaction report indicating that it meets the minimum compaction requirements shall be shown to the building inspector.
5. The earthwork shall not be part of a total grading project, nor combined with other earthwork requiring a grading permit.
6. All earthwork material exported off the site shall be exported to a location approved by the Building Official. The following note indicating the approved location shall be placed on the plan: "All material exported from the site shall go to this approved location \_\_\_\_\_." If the approved location is a dumpsite or landfill, then include the following note: "Receipts for acceptance of excess material by the dumpsite or landfill are required and shall be provided to the Building Official upon request."

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