

Load Bearing Wall Checklist

For Toronto and GTA Homeowners

5 Signs a Wall May Be Load Bearing

- It runs perpendicular to the floor and ceiling joists
- It sits directly above the foundation wall or a beam
- Another wall is stacked directly above or below it
- It carries a ridge beam, LVL, or other structural member
- It runs through the approximate center of the home

3 Ways to Confirm Before Renovation

- Pull original construction drawings from the city's permit archive
- Open the ceiling to inspect joist direction and bearing points
- Hire a structural engineer for a formal assessment

Toronto Permit Requirements

- A building permit is required for any wall removal in Toronto
- Submit drawings stamped by a licensed structural engineer
- Inspections required: framing, fire separation, and final
- Apply at toronto.ca/services-payments/building-construction/

Questions to Ask Your Contractor

- Can you provide a structural engineer's letter before removal?
- What temporary shoring will be used during the work?
- Are you licensed to pull building permits in Toronto?
- What is the expected beam size if a header is needed?