



Residential Fences

Standards

It is city policy to require that all fences be built with commonly available fence materials such as provided by fence contractors or materials sold as decorative fencing from retail suppliers. The intent here is to prevent the use of unsightly or hazardous materials such as wire fencing, scrap lumber, wood pallets, doors or other unapproved materials. Fence posts and supports must be installed on the side of the fence that faces your house or yard (good side toward your neighbor). Fences must be erected in a workman like manner, plumb, and straight. It is considered a structure and as such must be capable of withstanding wind and other forces exerted against it.

Location and Height

It is permitted to construct a fence anywhere on your lot, right up to your property line. For clarification a property line is a shared invisible line between two adjoining properties. Further, the statement “up to your property line”, does not mean you can build it on or over the property line. While the city does not mandate a survey, you are responsible for placing the fence within the parameters of your lot. This department has responded to many complaints regarding fences and encroachments of the lot line. To avoid moving the fence at a later date make sure you build it on your lot.

The allowable height of a fence depends on where it is located on your lot. A fence can be 6' high anywhere on your lot except within the setback area. Within the setback area the maximum height of the fence is limited to 4 feet. If you have a corner lot or a street to the rear, the setback requirement applies to all street lines.

Vision Setback Triangle

If you build a fence at the intersection of 2 streets or a street and an alley, the fence or any other structure, can be no taller than 2 1/2 feet within the vision setback triangle. This is a safety requirement to prevent blind spots and traffic hazards. A setback triangle is a straight line connecting 3 points. These 3 points are the corner of the lot and 2 points 20 feet away in each direction. Within this triangle, there can be no fence higher than 2 1/2 feet high, unless it is an open fence through which there is clear vision.

Diggers Hotline

One additional point to remember when planning your fence project:

Beware of underground cables or pipe!

Call the Diggers Hotline 1-800-242-8511 to determine if utilities are buried under your property. Please call at least three business days before you dig.

A permit is required to build a fence. You can print the permit form from “1&2 Family Permit Forms” or apply for the permit at city hall. The minimum permit fee is charged for all fence permits.

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