

FENCES: Building permits are required for all fences. Except as otherwise specifically provided in other codes, ordinances, or resolutions, the following regulations shall apply to the construction of fences:

1. Front yard fences shall comply with the following guidelines:
  - a. Front yard fences shall be not less than twelve (12) inches from the front property line and no less than ten (10) feet from the curb in those areas where a curb is present. Allowable materials are wrought iron, split rail, wood or vinyl.
  - b. Any fence located in the front yard in an R-1, R-2, or R-3 zoned area shall be not be more than three (3) feet in height and shall be of a material that is at least 50% opaque. Allowable materials for front yard fences are wrought iron, split rail, decorative wood or vinyl.
  - c. The front yard for purposes of this section shall be that part of the yard from the front line of the house to the front property line.
  - d. Prohibited fence materials in the front yard are: chain link, poultry fencing, woven or welded wire, snow fence, plastic fence, mesh fence, safety fence, metal fence panels, kennel fencing, barb wire or barbless wire, and field fence.
  - e. Side and rear yard fences may be placed on the property line provided the adjoining property owner gives written approval.
  - f. It shall be the responsibility of the property owner to locate the corner property pins or have a survey performed to locate said pins prior to construction of the fence being commenced.
2. Side and rear yard fences shall only be constructed of the following or similar materials: brick or stone walls or pillars, chain link, wood stockade, split rail, wood rail, wrought iron, spaced picket fence, imitation vinyl or other similar decorative material as approved by the City Building Inspector or city administrator. Barbed wire, electric wire, razor wire, roofing tin, ply board, and corrugated tin fences and similar products are specifically not allowed.
3. Fences installed upon public or parochial school grounds or in public parks and public playgrounds may be permitted to the property line providing the fence does not encroach on any required utility easements or cause any vision impairment for vehicles.
4. Side and rear yard fences in residential zoned areas shall not exceed a height of six (6) feet and may be connected to the front corner of the residence but shall not extend beyond the front corner into the front yard.
5. Fences in commercial or industrial zoned areas shall not exceed eight (8) feet in height.

Barb wire shall only be allowed in situations in a commercial or industrial zoned area where safety issues or critical infrastructure are present such as electric substations, propane or anhydrous ammonia tanks, and oil or gas wells. No barb wire shall be allowed without the permission of the City Building Inspector or City Administrator.
6. No fence shall be constructed within city right of way or city property.
7. All fences shall be constructed with the finished side of the fence facing outward from the property. Posts and support beams shall be placed on the inside of the finished surface. When doubt exists as to which way the surface of the proposed fence shall face, the City Building Inspector shall make the final determination.

8. No fence shall be constructed which will constitute a traffic hazard and no permit shall be granted for the construction of a fence unless the City Building Inspector has certified that the proposed fence will not constitute a traffic hazard.
9. No fence shall be constructed in such a manner or be of such design as to be hazardous or dangerous to persons or animals.
10. Fences shall not restrict natural surface drainage or be constructed in such a way as to divert or channel water with increased velocity.
11. No fence shall be constructed directly over and parallel to an existing utility easement, however a fence may cross perpendicular to a utility easement or may run parallel along the edge of a utility easement.

Any fence constructed in a utility easement may need to be removed by the utility or the City. The utility or the City shall not be responsible to replace or repair the fence in the event of its removal.

12. The owner of the fence shall maintain the fence in good, sound condition. It must be free of damage, breaks or missing structural members. Areas that are leaning, buckling, sagging or deteriorating must be repaired or replaced with compatible material. The area at the base of the fence must be kept free of debris and neatly trimmed.

Where fencing has been previously painted and there are areas of chipping, peeling, scaling, or missing paint equal to or greater than 20% of the surface area, then the surface must be repainted or stripped of all paint.

13. All fences shall conform to the construction standards of the building code and other applicable ordinances and resolutions.

In the event 50% or more of any fence is destroyed or damaged beyond repair, the entire fence must be removed or rebuilt to code.

14. Where a lot is located at the intersection of two (2) or more streets, there shall be a front yard on each street side of a corner lot. Any fences erected on such a lot shall comply with the building requirements for a front yard fence as set forth in Section 2. Fences 1a. However if the back lot line abuts a reverse corner lot, a fence may be erected on the yard, that is not the legal address at the time the fence is erected, at a height not to exceed 6 feet but said fence shall not extend beyond the property line or more than 20 feet from the corner of the house, whichever is shorter, and shall not extend beyond the front of the house. The term "corner of the house" does not include front and rear porches of a house. Under no circumstances shall the fence protrude into the site triangle.