

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do fences need permits?

A Building Permit is required for fences that exceed seven feet (7') in height. Certain types of solid fences, such as masonry walls, will require a Building Permit regardless of height. A Planning Permit may also be required under certain circumstances described below. Please consult with City staff prior to starting construction.

What materials are prohibited on a fence?

Barbed wire, razor wire, and other similar materials are not permitted as any part of any barrier or fence.

What is the maximum height allowable for a fence on a residential property?

Front Yard (area within 20' of the front property line): Fences along the front yard may be up to three feet (3') tall, and may be extended up to four feet (4') with see-through fencing material. Front yard fences may be further extended to five feet (5') total upon approval of a Planning Permit.

Side and Rear Yard: Fences may be up to six feet (6') tall and may be extended up to eight feet (8') with see-through fencing material, except in visibility zones. In visibility zones, no fence may exceed three feet (3') in height.

Please note: The “visibility zone” is generally the area on the corner of two intersecting roads. The “visibility zone” is determined by the City Engineer and the dimensions of this zone are based on traffic and safety considerations.

What is the maximum height allowable for a fence on a commercial or industrial property?

In required setback areas on commercial and industrial properties, fences may not exceed eight feet (8') in height.

What is considered a see-through style fencing material?

See-through style material refers to any fencing material in which the amount of opaque fence material, excluding its supporting posts, is less than 50% of the total square footage. Materials may include, but is not limited to, pickets, lattices, or decorative wrought iron.

Are arbors or decorative fence posts allowed as part of fence?

Arbors and decorative fence posts are allowed, but they require a Planning Permit approval. The Permit is required to review compatibility and safety with the surroundings.

Are chain link fences permitted?

Chain link fences are prohibited in the front yard of any residential property. Chain link fences up to six feet (6') in height may be permitted in the rear and side yards, if the yard is not adjacent to a public street or other public or quasi-public land use, such as public parks, schools, community facilities, etc. Chain link fences may be allowed in other areas, subject to Use Permit approval.