

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: FENCES

1. Is a Permit required?

A Building Permit is required for fences that exceed seven (7) feet tall. 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 City staff prior to starting construction.

2. What materials are prohibited on a fence?

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

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

a. Front Yard:

Fences may be up to three (3') feet tall, and may be extended up to four (4') feet with see-through fencing material. Front yard fences may be further extended to (5') feet tall upon approval of a Planning Permit.

b. Side and Rear Yard:

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

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.

4. 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 to eight (8') feet in height, except in visibility zones.

5. 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 any square foot of said fencing material. Materials may include, but is not limited to, pickets, lattices, or decorative wrought iron.

6. 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 its surroundings.

7. Are chain link fences permitted?

Chain link fences are prohibited on any residentially zoned or developed parcel. However, chain link fences up to six (6') in height may be permitted in rear and side yards on residential properties, where such yard is not a street side yard nor a rear yard of a corner or double frontage lot, and where any such yard is not adjacent to public and quasi-public land uses. Chain link fencing may be allowed in other areas, subject to Use Permit application and approval.