



Fences – Commercial Zones

Public Information Handout

Rev.20251216

Do I need to get a building permit for a fence?

You need to obtain a building permit for any fence regardless of height or construction material. A permit is required when a fence is being replaced; however no permit is required to repair an existing fence.

Why are there fence standards?

The fence standards promote the positive benefits of fences such as privacy and security without negatively affecting the community or endangering public or vehicle safety. These standards apply to walls, fences, trellises, arbors and screens of all types whether open, solid, wood, metal, wire, masonry or other material.

Can I have razor wire or an electric fence?

In a CB or GC commercial zones and all industrial zones three strands of barbed wire may be placed atop a lawful fence exceeding six feet in height above grade. Electric fences are only permitted in industrial zones. Additional conditions apply to barbed wire and electric fences. Please contact the Development Services Center for more information.

Where can the fence be located and how high can it be?

No fence may be closer than twelve feet to the curb. Fences can be as tall as the height limitation established for each zone, except when located within a clear view triangle area or the required setback when adjacent to a residential zone.

Can the fence be placed at the edge of the sidewalk?

In the commercial and industrial zones, the closest a fence can be placed is twelve feet away from the face of the curb. There are no waivers available to reduce this setback.

What is a clear view triangle?

A clear view triangle is the area at the intersection of two streets that needs to remain unobstructed to ensure pedestrian and vehicle safety. Any fencing located within the clear view triangle needs to be three feet high (36 inches) or less. Landscaping needs to be below 2 ½ feet (30 inches) high to allow for growth.

There are three types of clear view triangles:

- ▶ A triangle having sides of fifty feet measured along the curb line of each intersecting residential street.
- ▶ A triangle having a fifteen-foot side measured along the curb line of the residential street and a seventy-five foot side along the curb line of the intersecting arterial street. When the arterial street has a speed limit of thirty-five miles per hour, the triangle has a side along such arterial of one hundred twenty-two feet.
- ▶ A triangle having sides of seven feet measured along the right-of-way line of an alley and the inside line of the sidewalk, or if there is no sidewalk, a line seven feet inside the curb line.

For more information contact:

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