

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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## FENCES

WHEN ARE PERMITS REQUIRED TO INSTALL OR REPLACE A FENCE?

WHERE MAY FENCE BE LOCATED?

Fences may be placed anywhere on private property up to the property line so long as height restrictions and sight visibility standards are met. Fences must also be located at least two feet from sidewalks.

HOW TALL CAN MY FENCE BE?

Fence height is measured **from grade to the top of the tallest portion** of the fence, column or post.

Fences located on **single-family, duplex, triplex, and commercial properties** may be up to six (6) feet tall in rear and side yards and up to four (4) feet tall in front yards.

**Industrial properties** may have fences up to eight (8) feet tall on all sides.

**Multi-family and mobile home communities** may have fences up to six (6) feet tall on all sides.

Decorative gates and gate support posts may extend up to eight (8) feet in height for multifamily, subdivisions, and mobile home communities.

WHAT KIND OF FENCE MATERIALS ARE ALLOWED?

DO I NEED A SURVEY FOR A FENCE PERMIT?

WHICH DIRECTION MAY THE FENCE FACE?

ARE FENCES ALLOWED IN EASEMENTS?

TREE REMOVAL

9/15/19  
RE  
84.38

138-3700. - Purpose and intent.

Fences and walls should be used to define ownership, create privacy, ensure protection, and provide screening. Fences and walls should be designed and sited to ensure their intended purpose while recognizing and responding to the community character and ensuring public safety.

Ord. No. 18-36, § 3(Att. B), 10-23-18)

138-3701. - Definitions, as used in this section.

- (a) *Decorative* as applied to walls means that a wall is masonry with a stucco finish; has a finish of natural materials, such as brick, stone, or glass block; or has a finish which is accepted for use in the industry.
- (b) *Decorative* as applied to fences means that a fence is made of PVC fence material, wrought iron, or aluminum pickets, or is a painted or stained shadow-box or board-on-board type fence.
- (c) *Hedge* means a continuous arrangement of three or more shrubs for the purpose of screening or dividing spaces which are planted and maintained to create an open space less than two feet wide by six feet high between each shrub.
- (d) *Semi-opaque* means and includes fence and wall components which have opacity of 25 percent or less, excluding vertical support posts, for the purpose of maintaining some visibility.

Ord. No. 18-36, § 3(Att. B), 10-23-18)

138-3702. - General requirements.

- (a) *Residential fences and walls*. In residential districts, walls and fences are subject to the following height limits:
  - (1) Within the required side and rear setback area: six feet for a fence or wall of any style; or eight feet for a decorative fence or wall along secondary arterial and collector frontages.
  - (2) Within the required front setback area:
    - a. Three feet for a fence or wall of any style; additional height may be added for semi-opaque decorative toppers, the complete fence or wall shall not exceed a total height of five feet.
    - b. Four feet for a decorative fence or wall; additional height may be added for semi-opaque decorative toppers, the complete fence or wall shall not exceed a total height of five feet.
    - c. Eight feet for a decorative fence or wall when one of the following conditions apply:
      - 1. The fence or wall encloses the perimeter of a development adjacent to roads classified as collector streets or arterial roads. In such case: must be located at least two feet from the right-of-way and shall be landscaped with two trees for each 100 lineal feet and hedge material planted, in keeping with the intent of chapter 166, article II, trees should be planted at least five feet in distance from the wall to allow adequate room for growth. Hedges within sight triangles must be maintained at no more than three feet above pavement.  
The fence or wall must be reviewed and approved as part of a site plan or as a modification to an approved site plan. This includes the requirement that plans submitted be signed and sealed by a registered professional engineer in the State of Florida, thereby certifying that the fence or wall as proposed will not cause a sight distance obstruction for vehicles maneuvering on the adjacent or any nearby street system. Minimum sight triangle requirements for maintaining adequate sight distance are detailed in the appendix to this section.
      - 2. The subject property is a corner lot, double frontage lot, or other multiple frontage lot, and the fence will be located within a setback area from the adjacent right-of-way for which the property is not addressed. In such case, the applicant must obtain from the county traffic engineer a written statement of no objection that the fence as proposed will not cause a sight distance obstruction for vehicles maneuvering on the adjacent or any nearby street system. Such statement shall be in accordance with standard safe engineering practice as established by Pinellas County. The applicant for such permit shall provide to Pinellas County detailed information to show that these conditions are met.
- (b) *Rural residential districts (R-A, R-E and R-R)*. Split rail fences may be permitted up to six feet within the required front setback area. Such fences shall maintain at least 50 percent transparency.
- (c) *Nonresidential fences and walls*. In nonresidential districts, walls and fences are subject to the following height limits:
  - (1) Within the required side and rear setback area: six feet for a fence or wall of any style, except when required as part of a Type 2 Review (special exception) or (Type 3 Review (conditional use) approval.
  - (2) Within the required front setback area:
    - a. Three feet for a fence or wall of any style; additional height may be added for semi-opaque decorative toppers, the complete fence or wall shall not exceed a total height of five feet.
    - b. Four feet for a decorative fence or wall; additional height may be added for semi-opaque decorative toppers, the complete fence or wall shall not exceed a total height of five feet.



















AHEAD

15  
MILES PER HOUR













