

FENCE HEIGHT REQUIREMENTS

In order to assure safe traffic sight distances at intersections and driveways, the City has established specific criteria regulating the height of fences and shrubs at critical locations. This handout describes the height limitations and provides an illustration to aid in understanding these requirements.

Corner Lots

A fence, hedge or wall may not be higher than 3 feet within the front yard setback or within the area called the “vision triangle” or “traffic safety visibility area”. The boundaries of the triangle are formed by measuring from the intersection of the street corner property lines to points 20 feet along the front and street side property lines. These two points are then connected with a straight line resulting in the “vision triangle”.

Interior Lots

As with corner lots, fences and other sight obstructions cannot be higher than 3 feet within the front-yard setback area, which for most residential lots is a distance of 20 feet. Side and rear yard fences may be 6 feet in height; anything higher than 6 feet requires a building permit.

Property Line Fences

Be sure you know where your property lines are before you erect a fence. An encroachment permit must be obtained from the Engineering Department if the fence is to be wholly or partially located within the public right-of-way. Misplacement of fences on private property often results in neighborhood disputes.

