

Fences & Walls for Single-Family Homes

General Regulations & Important Information

The **finished side** shall face abutting property or street right-of-way.

Both sides of any fence or wall shall be **maintained in a condition of reasonable repair and appearance** by its owner and shall not be allowed to become or remain in a condition of disrepair or danger, or constitute a nuisance.

No physical damage of any kind shall occur to **abutting property during installation**, unless allowed under agreement with the adjacent property owner.

Walls with a height of more than **four feet** shall be designed by an engineer and have a fence on top with a minimum height of three feet.

A **permit is required** prior to erecting, altering or relocating any fence or wall (hedges and plantings are excluded). There is **no charge** for permits or fences not exceeding six feet in height or retaining walls not exceeding four feet in height.

Fences shall **not be constructed** of chicken wire, welded wire, snow fence, branches, or materials originally intended for other purposes, unless approved by the Zoning Administrator.

When constructing a fence consider: its function/purpose, the view from neighboring properties and how to maintain both sides.

Placement

The following fences are allowed in a front yard:

- 48 inches or less in height with an opacity under 50 percent (e.g., wrought iron, chain link, split rail)
- 36 inches or less in height with an opacity over 50 percent
- 6 feet or less in height with an opacity up to 100 percent, provided the yard is considered an equivalent side or rear yard

The following fences are allowed in a side or rear yard:

- 6 feet or less in height with an opacity of up to 100 percent

Fences constructed on corner lots or lots adjacent to railroad rights-of-way shall not be located in sight visibility triangles as set forth in Section 21105.05 of the Plymouth Zoning Ordinance.

A certificate of survey may be required for fences to be located within six feet of a property line.

Retaining walls shall not be placed within any drainage or ponding easement, unless approved by the City Engineer.

Definitions

A **fence** is any partition, wall, hedge row, row(s) of continuous plantings, or gate erected as a dividing marker, visual or physical barrier, or enclosure.

Fence height is the distance from the adjacent finished grade to the highest projection of a fence structure, not including support posts, provided that the support posts are no more than four inches above the fence structure.

