

## **FENCE STANDARDS**

The following summary has been prepared to help residents understand commonly asked questions with respect to fence construction. This can also be used as a planning tool when considering improvements to your property. A separate fence application form must be completed and approved prior to construction.

This application must include a mortgage location survey with the following info:

1. All property lines
2. Names and locations of streets and alleys
3. House location on lot
4. Location and type of fence placement

Allowable types of fences:

1. Chain Link fence
2. Ornamental fence (rail, split rail or wrought iron)
3. Privacy fence

Prohibited types of fences:

1. Woven wire fence
2. Barb wire fence
3. Electric fence
4. Any other fence that creates safety hazard nuisance

Fence Construction specifications:

- a. Post-hole depth is half the height of the fence with a minimum depth of 24".
- b. Finished side of fence to face neighbors' properties
- c. Property owner must ascertain location of property lines and make sure fence is not encroaching on any neighboring property.
- d. Posthole and final inspections are required by the City of Cambridge's Engineering Department.

- e. Fences that are between the principal building and a street and parallel to or nearly parallel to the front lot line and front wall of the principal building are not to exceed a height of 48" from the ground to the highest point of the fence.
- f. Fences that are no closer to the front lot line than the principal structure and parallel to or nearly parallel to a side lot line are not to exceed a height of six feet. This also applies for fences that are behind a principal structure and parallel to or nearly parallel to a rear lot line.
- g. All fences shall be properly maintained by the owners of the property on which they are located. Such maintenance shall include painting, cleaning, and structural soundness in the case of a fence, wall, or other man-made objects; and trimming, pruning, cutting, and other landscaping in the case of a hedge or other planting so that there is no aesthetic detriment to the surrounding area.
- h. Fences are permitted to be installed directly on the property; however, property owner shall be responsible for maintaining fence and must be fully accessible for maintenance and installation from the principle property.
- i. A fence can be constructed within a utility easement. However, if the utility company has to work within that easement, they can remove the fence and not be held accountable for reinstalling the fence.
- j. Fences can enclose electrical transformers, cable boxes or telephone boxes when located within an easement. However, these utilities must remain accessible for servicing. A three (3) foot clearance must be maintained around the opening side of the utility equipment.
- k. Fences erected on a corner lot shall not impede vision between a height of 2-1/2 feet and 10 feet above the center line grades of the intersecting streets in the area bounded by the right-of-way of such corner lots and a line joining points along the right-of-way 25 feet from the point of intersection.
- l. Private swimming pools with a diameter greater than 12 feet or with an area of more than 100 square feet must comply with the pool regulations in section 155.1903 and fence must be a minimum height of 48".