

FENCES

GENERAL GUIDELINES

City of Franklin-Inspection Services
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1. DEFINITIONS

(a.) **FENCE** - An artificially constructed barrier resting on or partially buried in the ground and rising above ground level, erected for the purpose of providing a boundary or as a means of protection, or to prevent uncontrolled access, or for decorative purposes or to screen from viewers in or on adjoining properties and streets the property or lot upon which the fence is erected. Invisible fences designed to contain household pets within a property shall be excluded from the definition of fence.

2. GENERAL FENCE PROVISIONS

(a.) **Maintenance Required.** All fences shall be maintained in good repair and in structurally sound condition. All fences shall be constructed and maintained in a good aesthetic condition and of such materials and colors so as not to adversely affect the value, visual character, and visual appeal of adjoining property or property in the immediate neighborhood. All fences shall be constructed and maintained straight, plumb, and of an even height along its length, except for such deviations as required by grade.

(b.) **Building Permit Required.** No fence shall be constructed in the City without first obtaining a Building Permit.

(c.) **Finished Side Facing Adjacent Property.** Fencing shall be constructed with the finished or decorative side facing the adjacent or abutting property or street.

3. FENCE LOCATIONS FOR SINGLE & TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS

(a.) Wholly within property lines; no part of the fence, post hole, or fence material may encroach or cross a property line.

(b.) A minimum of one (1) foot from any property line abutting a Right-of-Way or City easements unless otherwise approved by Common Council.

(c.) Outside of a vision clearance area as detailed in the City of Franklin UDO, Section 15-5-12.

(d.) In a manner which does not block access to underground utility access structures or fire hydrants.

4. FENCE HEIGHTS FOR SINGLE & TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS

(a.) Fence height shall be the vertical distance measured from the mean elevation of the natural lot grade along the fence to the highest point on the fence, excluding fence posts and supports. The posts and supports for fences may exceed the allowed fence height by six (6) inches.

(b.) Fences in front and/or street side yards shall not exceed four (4) feet in height except fences in street side yards which may have a maximum height of six (6) feet if located at least five (5) feet from the property line. Fences in front yards and/or street side yards shall be of non-sight barrier construction and have a maximum opacity of fifty (50) percent except for fences in street side yards, which may be one hundred (100) percent opaque if located a minimum of seven (7) feet from the street side lot line.
(c.) The maximum height of a fence in interior side yards and rear yards shall be six (6) feet. A height of up to eight (8) feet shall be allowed for fences in rear yards abutting an arterial road. Fence materials utilized in interior side yards and rear yards shall complement fence materials utilized in other yards. Fences in interior side and rear yards may be one hundred (100) percent opaque.

5. FENCE HEIGHTS FOR MULTIFAMILY, MIXED-USE AND NONRESIDENTIAL USES

(a.) The maximum height of fences on a lot with townhome, multifamily, mixed-use, and nonresidential uses shall not exceed six (6) feet.

(b.) A height of up to eight (8) feet shall be allowed for fences in rear yards abutting an arterial road.

(c.) The Plan Commission may approve a height above six (6) feet for a fence located in any lot where the proposed increase provides a functional or aesthetic benefit for the proposed use.

6. FENCE LOCATIONS FOR MULTIFAMILY, MIXED-USE AND NONRESIDENTIAL USES

(a.) Fences on lots with townhome, multifamily, mixed-use, and nonresidential uses shall be located in rear and interior side yards only, with the exception of fences on lots in the LI - Limited Industrial District which may be located in street side, interior side, and rear yards only. Fences located in the street side yard in the LI - Limited Industrial District shall be buffered from the sidewalk by a landscaped area as specified in the City of Franklin UDO, Section 15-5-04(C).

7. FENCE MATERIAL STANDARDS

(a.) Permitted fence materials shall be only those materials which are designed and intended for use in fence installations and shall be limited to: Wood (chemically treated or naturally resistant to decay), Wood Composites, Aluminum, Wrought Iron, Vinyl/PVC, Vegetation (including but not limited to "green wall" systems), Masonry or as approved by the Zoning

Administrator or their designee.

(b.) Chain link fences shall be allowed in the interior side or rear yard on a lot with any Single-Family or Two-Family use.

(c.) Masonry fences shall be prohibited in the Floodplain Overlay District. The Zoning Administrator may forward applications for masonry fences to the City Engineer for further review on sites outside the Floodplain Districts on which drainage and flooding concerns are present. Adverse impact of drainage and flooding shall constitute the ground for denial of the application.

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT:

In order to avoid delays in the processing of an application to erect or construct a fence the following information is necessary:

1. A plat of survey (**ACTUAL SCALE, NOT ENLARGED OR REDUCED**), showing proposed fencing location, and **any existing structures** on the property.
2. Dimensions of fence to lot lines and buildings.
3. Height of fence above grade (highest point).
4. Brochure or picture, showing type of fence proposed.
5. Please complete WE Energies easement form on the reverse side of these guidelines.

PLEASE NOTE: Diggers Hotline helps identify costly and dangerous utilities that can be buried just inches beneath your yard's surface. Call or click three working days before digging and have your lines marked so you can dig freely and safely. Wisconsin's One-Call Center 811 or (800) 242-8511 OR schedule your request online at www.diggershotline.com.

For Fence setbacks and location, see UDO section 15-5-08 or please contact the City of Franklin Planning Department.

For grades, drainage, easements and right-of-way information, please contact the City of Franklin Engineering Department.

FEES:

\$13.00 per \$1,000. value of work, \$65.00 minimum fee

All permits subject to Technology Fee of \$7.00

**OWNER'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONDITIONS FOR FENCES LOCATED IN
WE ENERGIES UTILITY EASEMENTS**

Fences may be permitted in We Energies utility easements only subject to the following:

1. The fence shall not be positioned nearer than 3' to any side of a transformer if present.
2. The fence shall not be positioned nearer than 10' to the door of any transformer if present. *EXCEPTION: If a gate or easily removable section of fence is positioned directly in front of the door and measures at least as wide as the door to the transformer, the distance may be reduced to 3'.*
3. We Energies will not repair or replace any portion of the fence in the utility easement if the fence needs to be removed for any utility work including clearing obstructions in the easement area.
4. The fence shall not be attached to any utility equipment.
5. "Digger's Hotline" shall be contacted prior to any excavation work.
6. This authorization only applies to We Energies utility easements.

Property Owner(s) hereby acknowledges that he/she has read and understands the above conditions:

Sign _____ Print _____

Sign _____ Print _____

NOTE: The owner must sign this acknowledgement and include it with their fence permit submittal.