



## FENCING GUIDELINES

**INTRODUCTION:** Before construction of any fence structure within the City of Norwalk city limits, it is important to fully understand the requirements the city has concerning the approval process and subsequent construction requirements listed in the Norwalk Code of Ordinances (17.04.280). Furthermore, it is also important to review these guidelines to ensure your fencing plans are consistent with city code.

### APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS:

**Step 1:** The first step in the application and approval process would be to review the City Code shown below to make sure that any fence structure that you would like to build meets the requirements listed. Make sure to direct any questions you may have to city Community Development staff.

**Step 2:** Once you determine the fence structure you propose to build meets the requirements listed in City Code as well as any restrictive covenants you may have on your property, either go to city hall to obtain a fence permit application or print one off from the city website.

**Step 3:** Complete the application to the best of your knowledge making sure to be as thorough as possible. Upon completion of the application submit the application to city Community Development Staff located in City Hall.

**Step 4:** Allow up to five (5) days for staff review of the application. Once staff determines whether to approve or deny your application, you will receive a phone call from staff that will inform you of the decision as well as instructions on how to proceed. A general fence permit is \$15 and will be issued to you at the time you pick up your application.

**\*\* Submitting fence specs as well as technical drawings at the time of application complete with lot lines, obstacles, easements and structures is strongly encouraged and makes the application process more streamlined and efficient.**

### 17.04.280 Fences, Walls and Vision Clearance.

- A. On a corner lot, nothing shall be erected, placed, planted or allowed to grow in such a manner as to impede vision between a height of two and one-half (2-1/2) feet and ten (10) feet above the centerline grades of the area described as follows:

That area bounded by the street right-of-way lines of a corner lot and a straight line joining points on said right-of-way lines twenty-five (25) feet from the point of intersection of said right-of-way lines.

- B. In any district other than the “M” Districts, fences and walls not exceeding eight (8) feet in height are permitted within the limits of side and rear yards, and a fence or wall not exceeding four (4) feet in height is permitted within the limits of front yards. In the case of retaining walls supporting embankments, the above requirements shall apply only to that part of the wall above the ground surface of the retained embankment.
1. In any district where a fence or wall is required by a section or chapter of this ordinance, the Subdivision Ordinance, or other ordinance, to serve as a screening wall, buffer wall, sound barrier, or other ordinance, to serve as a screening wall, buffer wall, sound barrier, or other separating or protective wall, the restrictions of this section, except paragraph A, shall yield to the requirements of specific ordinance.
  2. Fences and walls on a corner lot shall comply with the vision clearance requirements of Paragraph A above.
  3. Single-faced fences erected in residential zoning districts shall have their unfinished side (side with exposed posts) facing toward the property on which the fence is erected Single-faced fences erected in non-residential zoning districts which abut a residential zoning district shall have their finished side facing toward the residential district.
  4. Fences and walls shall not exceed a height of ten (10) feet in the M-Districts. Barbed or electrified wire shall be prohibited within any R-District, if the property is not being used for agricultural purposes.

**RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS:** It may be possible if you live within an active homeowner’s association neighborhood that there may be restrictive covenants concerning regulation of structures including fences. These restrictive covenants should have been described to you at the time you bought your home/lot.