

About this information....

The McMinnville Planning Department Informational Brochure series has been developed to provide general information on land use regulations commonly affecting activities undertaken by the public and administered by this office. The information contained in these brochures is not intended to be a complete statement of all applicable regulations, and individuals are encouraged to contact the office for complete rules and permitting requirements.

For additional information, visit the Planning Department's website at:

<http://www.ci.mcminnville.or.us>

Zoning Ordinance Chapter 17.54.090



RESIDENTIAL FENCES

PLANNING DEPARTMENT



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24 hours a day....**

....about zoning, sign code requirements, land use applications and fees, Planning Department staff contacts, parking requirements, landscape requirements, historic preservation, meetings and committees, information about any of the other City departments, and more via the Internet:

<http://www.ci.mcminnville.or.us>

Community Development Center
231 NE 5th Street
McMinnville, OR 97128
(503) 434-7311
Fax: (503) 474-4955
www.ci.mcminnville.or.us

What is a fence?

McMinnville's definition of a fence includes any obstruction constructed of any materials, including but not limited to wire, wood, cement, brick, plastic, and vegetative plantings arranged in such a way as to partially or wholly obstruct vision or block access.



Where can I place a fence?

Fences may be placed up to, but not on or over, your property line. This applies to all portions of the fence, including posts, footings, and fence face. Before constructing any fence, it is strongly advised that you determine the location of your property lines, and any easements that may affect the fence's location.

How do I know where my property lines are?

If you are unsure of your property line location, you may be able to determine it by locating the property's corner pins. Typically, a property's corners are marked by a piece of rebar on top of which may be a yellow plastic cap marked with survey information. Property lines extend between these corners. The McMinnville Engineering Department has plat maps that may be of assistance in helping to locate your property pins and lines. In addition, copies of surveys may be available from the Yamhill County Surveyor's Office, or on their website.

In the absence of such markers or surveys, you may have to hire a registered land surveyor or engineer to help determine the property line location.

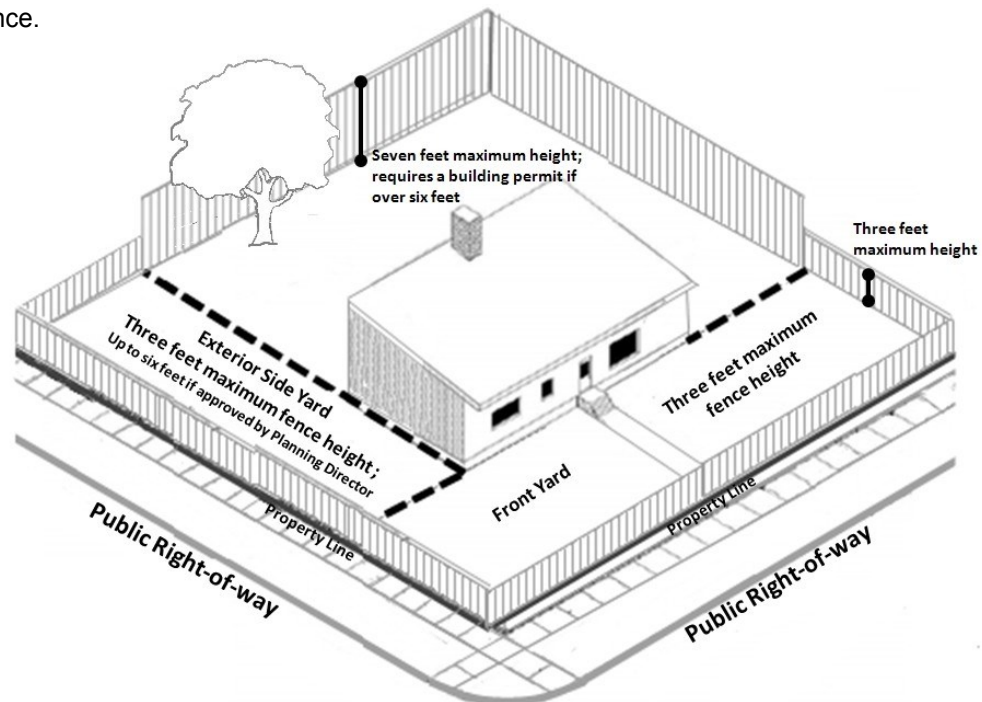
How tall can a fence be?

In general, fences may be built to a maximum height of seven feet along the rear and side property lines, and three feet within 20 feet of the front property line(s) adjacent to a public street. In some cases, where it can be determined that a fence within the front yard area of a property would not block the visibility of pedestrians and drivers and create a clear vision hazard, a taller fence may be permitted by the Planning Director.

Before constructing a fence, property owners are advised to check their private covenants and restrictions to make sure that additional fence height restrictions do not apply. In many cases, such private covenants restrict fence heights along side and rear yards to six feet.

How is fence height measured?

For topographically flat properties, fence height is measured from ground level at the base of the fence to the top of the highest portion of the fence. The height of fences on sloped property is measured from the uphill side, but the height cannot exceed 10 feet when measured from the downhill side of the fence.



Do I need a permit?

For questions regarding permit requirements, contact the Building Division at 503-434-7314.

Other considerations:

Before constructing any fence on your property, please be sure to contact the Oregon Utility Notification Center (1-800-332-2344) and have them mark the location of underground utilities in the area of the proposed fence. This is a free service.

Questions?

For assistance or further information, please call the Planning Department at 503-434-7311, or visit them at the Community Development Center, 231 NE 5th Street, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.