

City of Minneapolis  
Community Planning & Economic Development  
Planning Division  
250 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 300  
Minneapolis MN 55415-1316  
612-673-3000

## **FENCE REQUIREMENTS**

**535.370. Purpose.** Standards governing fences are established to promote the public health, safety and welfare, encourage an aesthetic environment and allow for privacy, while maintaining access to light and air.

**535.380. Fence location on a zoning lot.** Fences may be erected, placed or maintained along or adjacent to a lot line. The fence owner shall be responsible for properly locating all property lines before construction of any fence.

**535.390. Fence encroachment onto public property.** No portion of any fence shall encroach upon or project into any public right-of-way or other public property without the fence owner first obtaining an encroachment permit.

**535.400. Prohibited fence locations.** No person shall place, construct, maintain, or cause to be placed any fence that may endanger the public safety, including but not limited to the following:

- (1) *Fire hydrant access.* No fence shall obstruct free access to any fire hydrant
- (2) *Site triangle.* No fence shall be constructed or maintained within a distance of fifteen (15) feet from any street or alley intersection where the zoning administrator finds it to obstruct a driver's view of approaching, merging or intersecting traffic.

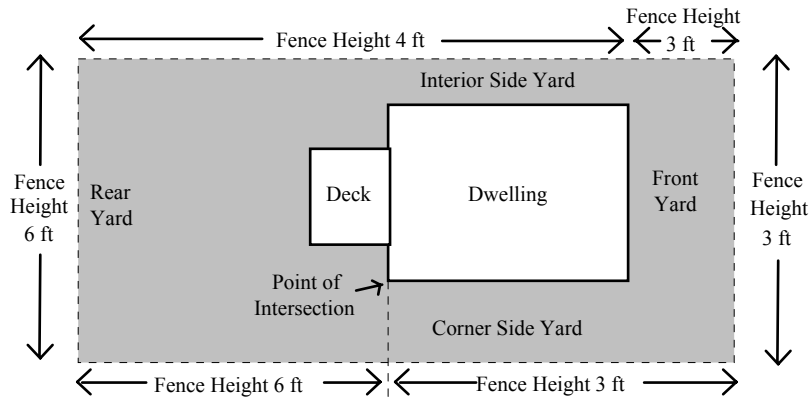
**535.410. Fence maintenance.** Every fence shall be kept in good repair, consistent with the design thereof. The property owner shall be responsible for maintaining the area between the property line and the owner's fence.

**535.420. Fence height.** Fence height shall be limited by its location as specified below. Except as otherwise provided in sections (1) and (2) below, the maximum fence height may be increased by two (2) feet if the entire fence is constructed of open, decorative, ornamental fencing materials that are less than sixty (60) percent opaque. For purposes of this provision, vinyl coated chain link shall qualify. In no case shall a fence exceed eight (8) feet in height, regardless of location.

- (1) *Front yard.* Fences located in the required front yard shall not exceed three (3) feet in height. The maximum fence height may be increased by one (1) foot if constructed of open, decorative, ornamental fencing materials that are less than sixty (60) percent opaque.
- (2) *Corner side yard.* Fences located in the required corner side yard shall not exceed three (3) feet in height. The maximum fence height may be increased by one (1) foot if constructed of open, decorative, ornamental fencing materials that are less than sixty (60) percent opaque. In addition, the maximum height may be increased to six (6) feet beginning at the point of intersection of the corner side wall and the rear wall of the principal structure to the rear lot line. For the purpose of this section, open decks and porches shall not be considered part of the principal structure.

**Attention:** If you need other disability related accommodations, such as a sign language interpreter, accessible meeting site, or materials in alternative format, please contact 612-673-3220 (673-2157 TTY/VOICE) at least five days prior to the meeting. If you want help translating this information, call – **Hmong** – Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800; **Spanish** – Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2700; **Somali** - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

**Figure 535-1 Maximum Fence Height**



- (3) *Interior side yard.* Fences located in the required interior side yard shall not exceed four (4) feet in height. The maximum height may be increased to six (6) feet if the adjoining property has maintained a minimum interior side yard of five (5) feet along the entire length of the side wall of the principal structure. In addition, the maximum height may be increased to six (6) feet between the rear wall of the principal structure on the adjoining property and the rear lot line.
- (4) *Rear yard.* Fences located in the required rear or side yard and extending along the rear lot line shall not exceed six (6) feet in height, except that a rear yard abutting a required side yard shall be considered an interior side yard and shall be subject to the regulations for interior side yards.
- (5) *Along public streets.* Fences not located in required yards, but located within five (5) feet of a public street or public sidewalk, shall not exceed six (6) feet in height.

**535.430. Fence design.** Fences shall be constructed, designed and maintained as follows:

- (1) *Permitted materials.* Fences shall be constructed of wood, metal, bricks, masonry or other permanent materials designed for permanent fencing. No more than two types of related fencing materials shall be used in any fence and wall. Fences constructed of wood shall be resistant to decay.
- (2) *Hazardous and prohibited materials.* Fences shall not be constructed of electrically charged wire, razor wire, chain link with slats, chicken wire, rope, cable, railroad ties, landscape timbers, utility poles or any other similar materials or materials not specifically manufactured for permanent fencing. The cut or selvage end of wire or metal fencing materials may not be exposed at the top of a fence if the height of the fence is less than six and one-half (6 1/2) feet. Barbed wire may be permitted at the top of a fence if the height of the barbed wire is not less than six and one-half (6 1/2) feet and the fence is located in an industrial district not less than one hundred (100) feet from a residence or office residence district.
- (3) *Posts and supporting members.* All fence posts and related supporting members of the fence shall be erected so that the finished side or sides of the fence shall be facing the adjacent property or public right-of-way.
- (4) *Snow fences.* Institutional and public uses may erect snow fences exclusively for control of snow between November 1 and April 15.