



FENCES

On Single-Family Residential Properties in the City of Columbus

Fence: Any structure, solid or otherwise, which is a barrier and is used as a boundary or means of protection, confinement, or concealment.

Did You Know?

You do not need a permit to install a fence, but there are building standards on materials, location, height, and orientation.

What is a Variance?

In instances where a requirement cannot be met, owners have the option to apply for a variance from that requirement. Variances are considered on a case-by-case basis by the Board of Zoning Appeals. All variance requests begin with a meeting with the Planning Department staff.

Standards:

Fence posts may extend 6 inches beyond top of the fence.

All **structural members**, braces, bolts, etc, must face the interior of the property that the fence encloses.

Fences are limited to a **maximum height** of 8 ft. in any side or rear yard & 42 inches (3.5 ft.) in any front yard.

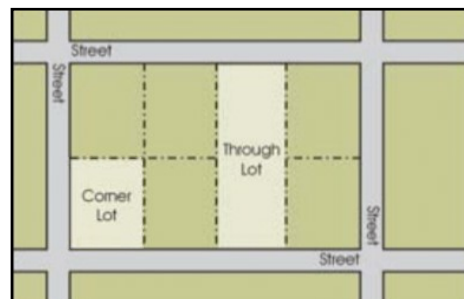
Fence height is measured from the surrounding grade, including the base of any berms, to the top of the fence.

Prohibited Locations:

- **public right-of-way:** the publicly-owned property in which a street is located. The right-of-way usually includes the street, sidewalk, and some lawn area behind the sidewalk. Be sure to verify your property line to stay out of the right-of-way.
- **public or private easement:** this is typically a utility, drainage, or access easement. Be sure to obtain permission of the easement holder.
- **required buffer yard:** a required landscaping zone. Don't install a fence here unless the fence is required by the Zoning Ordinance.
- **sight visibility triangle:** be aware of visibility for drivers. If you live on a corner lot or alley, contact the Planning Department for more information.

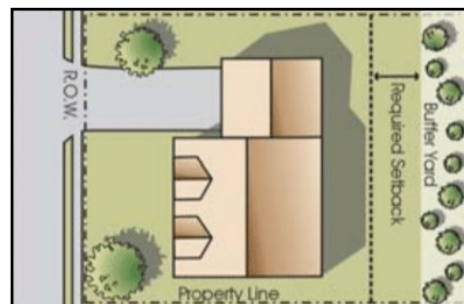
Through lots have 2 front yards, but the fence is only limited to 42 inches in the front yard that the house faces.

Corner lots have 2 front yards and the fence is limited to 42 inches in both front yards.



Prohibited Fence Types:

- Chain link in the front yard
- Electrified and barbed wire



Helpful Hint:

It is highly recommended the homeowner get a survey to verify lot lines and underground utilities before installing a fence.



CITY OF COLUMBUS - BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

For more info: contact Technical Code Enforcement (812-379-1535) or the Planning Department (812-376-2550 or planning@columbus.in.gov).