



Fences

In Residential Zones

- ✓ You will need a Development Permit in order to erect a fence. Contact the Planning Department, 724-6702.
- ✓ Fences may be placed on the property line. However, make sure to determine exactly where the property line is located in order to avoid conflicts with neighbors. The City knows the dimensions of lots, but not precisely where the lot lines are located. Lot lines must be located by a surveyor.
- ✓ Fences must be out of the road right-of-way. If unsure, a good rule-of-thumb is 1-½ feet inside the sidewalk.
- ✓ Fences located against alleys should have a gate for emergency access.
- ✓ No razor or barbed wire fences are allowed within the City of Muskegon.
- ✓ *In front of* the 'front building line', solid fencing cannot be higher than 3 feet. Chain link, or 'open' fencing cannot be higher than 4 feet.
- ✓ Fencing located *behind* the 'front building line' cannot be higher than 6 feet. Stockade fencing is allowed.
- ✓ No fences are permitted within the waterfront setback area (30 feet from ordinary high water mark).
- ✓ Fences must be of standard commercial construction and must be properly maintained.
- ✓ Fences on lots located in Historic Districts must first be approved by the Historic District Commission.
- ✓ For stockade fences, we encourage (but don't require) you to put the "good" side out. This prevents others from climbing into your yard from the outside and also promotes good relationships between neighbors.

Corner Lots

- ✓ Fences may not block the "triangle of vision" at alleys, driveways or corners, 25 feet back from property lines. Chain link or short picket fences may be permitted in this area. Consult the City's Code Coordinator.
- ✓ Corner lots are considered to have two 'front building lines', one per street frontage.

For additional information on fence regulations, see Section 2331 of the City's Zoning Ordinance

Residential Lots

Behind Front Building Line:

- Fences can't be higher than 6 feet.
- Stockade fencing is allowed.
- Corner lots are considered to have two 'front' building lines.

In Front of Front Building Line:

- 50% open fences (chain link, split-rail, wrought iron); can't be higher than 4 feet.
- Stockade fences can't be higher than 3 feet.

- Fence must be 18 inches back from the sidewalk.

