

Fence  A linear structure constructed for aesthetics, as a visual barrier, and/or to control entry or exit into an area. Typical materials include wood, metal, wire, masonry, stacked rocks, or logs.

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(a) Applicability. The requirements of this section apply to fences more than 30 inches in height.

(b) Measurement of fence height. The height of a fence shall be measured from the adjoining ground surface to the top of the fence material (i.e., not the fence post, pole, or column).

(c) Construction specifications. A fence shall meet the following construction specifications:

1. **Width.** With the exception of vertical supports, the width of a fence shall not exceed 14 inches.
2. **Height.** The top of a fence shall not exceed the height listed in Exhibit 7-10.
3. **Orientation.** All non-decorative posts, horizontal supports, cross-members, and the like shall be oriented inward to the lot on which the fence is located, except for livestock fencing.
4. **Materials.** A fence shall be constructed of building materials commonly used for fence construction in the region, except for those specifically prohibited in this section. A fence located in a front yard shall have a maximum opacity of 50 percent. All other fences may be solid from the ground to the maximum height. Snow fences constructed of wood or plastic shall be permitted only as temporary fences.
5. **Vertical supports.** A vertical support, such as a post or column, shall not exceed 24 inches in width or extend more than 24 inches above the top of the highest point of the adjoining fence.
6. **Arbors.** An arbor may extend above a pedestrian walkway provided it is not taller than 9 feet, wider than 5 feet, or deeper than 3 feet.
7. **Trellises.** A trellis may be incorporated into the overall design of a fence provided no part is taller than 8 feet and does not extend for more than 10 percent of the length of the side on which it is located.

(d) Location specifications. A fence shall meet the following locational specifications:

1. A fence may be placed up to a lot line, except that a fence shall not be closer than 2 feet to a public road right-of-way or other lot line when adjoining a public pedestrian walkway or the like.
2. A fence may be placed within a utility easement, unless prohibited by the easement holder, with the understanding that the utility authority may remove such fence at the property owner's expense, is not liable for any damage to the fence, and is not responsible for the reconstruction of the fence.
3. A fence shall not be located within a drainage easement. Upon written petition, the zoning administrator may allow a fence in a drainage easement when it can be shown that the fence will not restrict the flow of stormwater and the easement holder does not object.

(e) Special standards for fencing around a swimming pool. A fence that is located around a swimming pool must meet the standards in the most current edition of ANSI/IAF-8 as promulgated by the American National Standards Institute and Association of Pool and Spa Professionals that relate to barriers and fencing.

(f) Special standards for fencing around a sport court. A fence may be located around a sport court, provided it meets the following standards:

1. The fence shall not exceed 12 feet in height.
2. The fence shall not be located within a setback line.
3. Any portion of the fence above 6 feet in height shall be an open woven wire.

(g) Special standards for temporary fencing. A temporary fence may be used for the duration of a construction project with a valid building permit.

(h) Modification of stormwater flow. A solid masonry fence shall not impede the natural flow of stormwater.



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- (i) **Barbed wire fencing.** Barbed wire fencing is prohibited except as follows:
 1. Three or fewer courses of barbed wire may be installed above the top line of a 6-foot high chain link fence when located in a manufacturing zoning district.
 2. Barbed wire may be used to contain livestock as may be allowed in the zoning district.
- (j) **Electric fencing.** Electrically-charged fencing is prohibited except when used to contain livestock as may be allowed in the zoning district.
- (k) **Maintenance.** A fence shall be maintained in a structurally sound manner.
- (l) **Fencing as a private nuisance.** In no event shall any provision in this section be construed to permit a fence that constitutes a private nuisance under s. 844.10, Wis. Stats.

Exhibit 7-10. Maximum fence height

Location	Residential and Agricultural Zoning Districts	Business Zoning Districts	Industrial Zoning Districts
	Front yard	4.5 feet [1,2]	4.5 feet [3]
Side yard	6 feet [2]	8 feet [3]	10 feet
Rear yard	6 feet [2]	8 feet [3]	10 feet

1. On parcels of 3 acres or more, a fence may be 5.5 feet in the front yard when the fence is used to contain livestock.
2. Pursuant to the procedures and requirements in article 6 of this chapter, the plan commission may approve a special exception to allow a fence that is higher than the height specified when such fence is needed to prevent certain livestock from escaping.
3. Pursuant to the procedures and requirements in article 6 of this chapter, the plan commission may approve a special exception to allow a fence that is higher than the height specified, but no more than 10 feet.

