



CITY OF MENASHA • Community Development Department  
100 Main Street, Suite 200 • Phone (920) 967-3650 • website: <http://www.cityofmenasha-wi.gov>

## FENCES

### What is a Fence?

The City of Menasha defines a fence as a structure used for screening or a barrier intended to prevent passage.

### Permitting.

Permits are required for any fence in the front yard including corner lots and through lots.

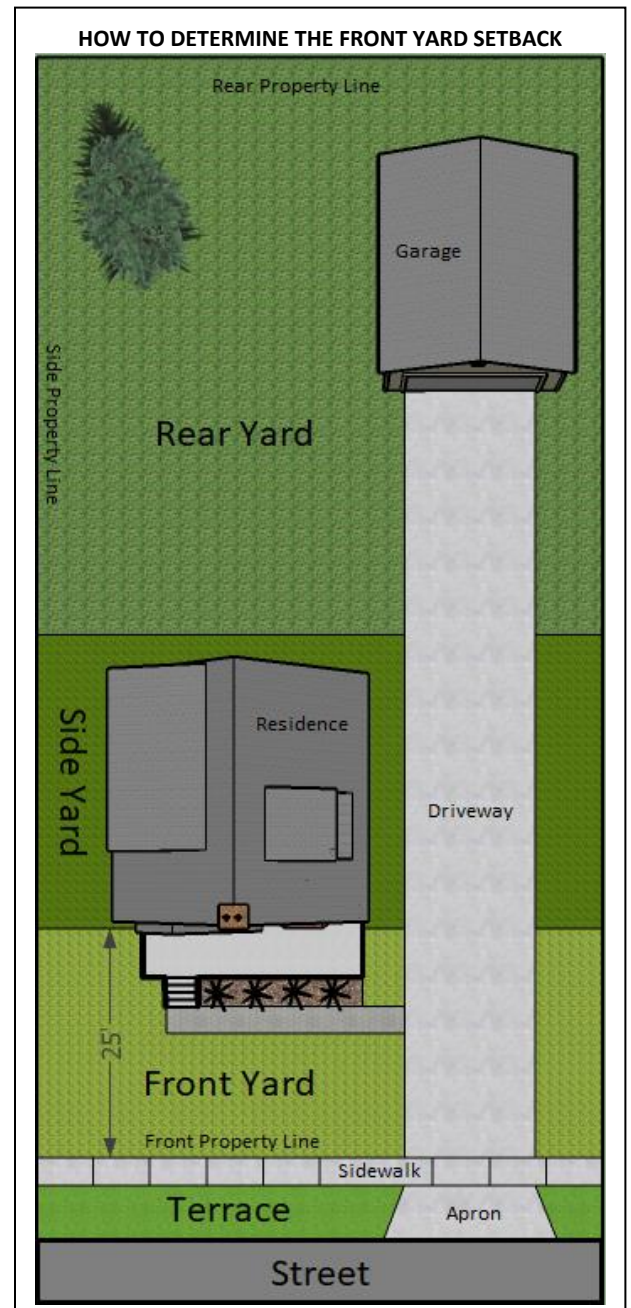
1. Applications are available from the Community Development Department and shall include a sketch or design of the proposed fence, specify the height and location of the fence to be installed.
2. Consideration shall be given to vision control area standards pursuant to Sec. 13-1-53.
3. Permits may include limitations on the location, height, or materials used in constructing or installing fences.
4. Permits may be revoked at any time by the Community Development Department if the fence poses risk to health, safety, or general welfare of the community.

### Height Regulations.

- Fences within the front yard setback, shall not exceed three feet six inches (3'6") in height.
- Fences in residential-zoned districts or residentially used properties shall not exceed six feet (6') in height  
*Exception: those fences in a residential district abutting a commercial or industrial district may have a fence of up to eight feet (8') in height along the abutting side.*
- All other fences shall not exceed eight feet (8') in height.

### Height Exceptions.

1. Decorative posts at a minimum spacing of twenty four (24) inches may extend eight (8) inches above the maximum height.
2. To accommodate slope/lawn maintenance, up to six (6) inches of ground clearance shall be allowed and will not contribute to the measurement of maximum fence height.
3. Berms with slopes less than or equal to a minimum of three (3) feet of horizontal to maximum of every one (1) foot vertical shall not contribute to the measurement of the maximum fence height.



## **Fence Materials.**

In the residential-zoned districts or residentially used properties fences shall be constructed in a workmanlike manner and using residential-style fences. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Treated wood or naturally rot resistant wood
- Wood composite
- Wrought iron
- Brick
- Stone or other masonry
- Vinyl
- Wire mesh
- Galvanized or coated chain link

The following are materials are prohibited from being used in residential-zoned districts:

- Barbed wire
- Electrical fences
- Strand fences
- Corrugated metal
- Razor wire
- T-posts or U-posts
- Any improvised material not traditional used as a fence

The following are materials that prohibited from being used in the front yard setback:

- Galvanized or coated chain link
- Fencing used for livestock
- Chain mesh

## **Fence Maintenance**

All fences shall be maintained in a structurally sound, attractive, and vertical manner. Any fence found to be in disrepair or a detriment to the comfort, health, safety, morals, prosperity, aesthetics, and general welfare of the people of the City of Menasha shall be repaired, replaced, or demolished.

## **Exceptions**

1. Garden fences that encompass a garden are exempt from the provisions of Sec. 13-1-88, provided they are not located in the front yard and are a minimum of five (5) feet from any property line.
2. Snow fencing with the purpose of preventing snow drifts is permitted between November 15 And April 15 of the following year.
3. Kennels or other fencing required by other portions of the Municipal Ordinance including swimming pools (Sec. 13-1-89(d)) and licensing of dogs and cats (Sec. 7-1).
4. Protective fences on industrial or publically owned lands are excluded from the provisions of Sec. 13-1-88, except that no fence shall incorporate the use of barbed wire, razor wire, or other security fencing measures used to harm the health or wellbeing of the public.

## **Disclaimer**

This information is only a general guide to help you plan a typical fence installation. While we have made an attempt to answer the questions most often asked regarding fences, your situation may not be included. For more complicated situations not addressed in this factsheet, such as fences in the floodplain, feel free to contact the Community Development Department to discuss your proposed fence.

## **Recommended Actions**

**Call Diggers Hotline.** Please remember that there may be underground electric, phone or cable T.V. wires buried on your property in easements that are generally 5' or 6' wide on your side and rear lot lines. Please call the Digger's Hotline before you do any digging on your property.



**DIGGERS HOTLINE: 811 or (800) 242-8511**

**[www.diggershotline.com](http://www.diggershotline.com)**

**Communicate with your neighbors.** Oftentimes disputes arise when a fence is installed without involving your neighbor(s) as you plan your project. These disputes tend to involve the location of the fence in relation to the property line, fence material selections/colors, and which side of the fence faces your neighbor. These issues are considered private civil matters in which the city does not get involved in resolving. By consulting with your neighbor at the beginning of your project, most of these issues can be avoided.